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EU beef blockade of Britain

Protest by Major as Brussels claims right to order world ban

By CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS AND PHILIP WEBSTER POLITICAL EDITOR

THE European Union last night imposed a worldwide ban on British beef exports after the Government held back from new measures — including the mass slaughter of cattle — to reassure the country and the Continent.

In a move that provoked fury and disbelief in Westminster the Commission claimed that it had the legal powers to order a ban involving third countries. Senior British officials in Brussels said there were serious doubts over whether the Commission had such a right although Britain had ceded some trading rights.

An angry John Major telephoned Jacques Santer, the European Commission President, to protest. Mr Santer told him that an advisory committee will be reconvened today so that British experts could argue the case for the prohibition to be lifted.

Explaining the EU action, Franz Fischler, the Agricultural Commissioner, said: "The aim is to ring-fence the problem inside the UK and help consumers recover confidence in the beef market."

British officials were agitated that the Commission and the council of veterinary officials had gone further than almost all demands by imposing bans on all imports into the EU and British exports elsewhere of live cattle, beef products and by-products in cosmetics.

The ban is open-ended and could be lifted only when Britain could convince the Commission that there was no further threat. Any compensation would depend on Britain's ability to satisfy demands for evidence that the BSE problem was being handled correctly.

An outraged official said: "There was not a shred of scientific evidence advanced in the veterinary committee today." The Brussels decision was "unscientific, hasty, ill-prepared and disproportionate". He noted that the Commission was in a great rush to quarantine British beef but was taking a strict view on compensation.

After a weekend of intense

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Investigation by the Government's expert scientific committee, Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, told the Commons that children were no more likely than adults to catch the human form of mad cow disease.

And Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, while announcing the acceptance of minor new recommendations, stopped short of announcing a slaughter policy and said only that he was ready to come forward with further measures if they were justified.

The Government's decision to try to tough out the crisis without further drastic measures came at a Cabinet committee chaired by the Prime Minister in which Mr Hogg found little support for his multi-billion pound plan to order the slaughter of all cattle aged more than 30 months.

With Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, taking a tough Treasury line, and indications that the Government overnight that the EU would not be swift in coming forward with compensation assistance, one minister after another recom-

mended that the Government should not go further than the recommendations of its scientific committee. Ministers fear that a massive compensation payout could knock their economic policy off course.

They had had a flood of representations from MPs in farming constituencies warning that mass slaughter policy was a panic reaction and more than was required.

Mr Hogg had suggested the slaughter of some 4.5 million older cattle on Sunday partly because he fully expected the expert committee to recommend such a move. But even on learning that the committee had not made such a proposal he was ready to propose the policy.

According to informed sources he was given short shrift. Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, is among those understood to have warned that the Government should not be seen to panic in the face of what he called media hysteria.

Ministerial sources believe that a slaughter policy could yet be forced on Britain if the European Union makes it a condition of any help for compensation to beef farmers. Some officials believe that such a decision could come tomorrow.

The Cabinet committee discussed applying for European funds to support the beef market but it is clear that Britain will have to wait before the state of the beef market becomes clearer.

The news that children are not likely to be more at risk than adults was the first boost for the beef industry since it was disclosed last week that there was a possible link between BSE and a new strain of CJD.

Mr Dorrell told MPs: "If human infection with the BSE agent occurs, infants and children are not likely to be more susceptible to that infection than are adults."

Mr Dorrell said there was now "clearly no reason for the Government to advise local education authorities to re-

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A British lorry carrying beef is stopped and turned back at Calais yesterday. In Brittany 151 cattle were destroyed after the discovery of BSE. Page 8

Two new cases of CJD suspected

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS disclosed yesterday that two more patients may be infected with the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, which has been linked to BSE in cattle.

The patients, aged 36 and 42, are both still alive. Ten other confirmed cases were announced last week.

Professor John Pattison chairman of Seac (the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee), yesterday also disclosed the ages of the earlier ten cases. The patients range in age from 18 to 41. Three are 29 and three are 30 or 31. Assuming a ten-year incubation period, this means that more than half were in their teens or younger when they first became infected.

Professor Pattison told a press conference that the latest two cases were "in the age category under investigation"

but that confirmation was still awaited. In one case a biopsy had proved negative, but that did not rule out the possibility that the patient was suffering from the new strain, he said.

He added that his committee had deliberated for eight hours about the risks to children and had considered every aspect. The committee was joined by experts in paediatrics, gastro-enterology and infection and immunity, and had considered differences in the way protein was digested, the normal defences against infection, and the barrier protecting the gut in adults and children.

"We treated all questions with the utmost seriousness. We were determined no question should be left unexplored," he said.

There was no evidence that the cause of BSE was in red muscle meat, and no evidence

in other encephalopathies, such as scrapie in sheep, that they were carried in the muscle. "It would surprise us enormously if BSE were the exception," he said. He added, however, that there were limits to the sensitivity of the tests for detecting the infection.

He said parents could not protect their children from every risk. All food could carry infection and could trigger allergic reactions or cause illness. "Stopping beef and eating something else does not go from a small risk to a zero risk," he said.

The Seac experts also concluded that pregnant women, patients in hospital and people suffering from conditions affecting the immune system were not likely to have increased susceptibility to infection by BSE.

At last night's news conference, Stephen Dorrell, the

Health Secretary, made clear that he did not believe there was any reason for people to stop eating beef. He reaffirmed that both he and his children would continue to do so.

Referring to the committee's report, he said: "Since nothing in life is risk-free, I think there is no basis in this advice for anyone to remove beef from their family diet."

Pound hit by market jitters

The pound and British stocks and bonds suffered yesterday as investors reacted to the beef crisis.

Mr Douglas Hogg's statement that bans on beef were unjustified and his apparent decision to rule out a cull of herds did not appear to help sterling. Government bonds perked up after the Commons statements but it came too late to help the stock market. The FTSE index closed 25.1 points lower at 3,681.9.

Scots are left out of stamp squad

Scottish football was sidelined when it provided none of the five British players selected by public vote to appear on commemorative stamps for the European championship. Pat Cerand, the former Scottish international, said: "I think the voting should have been done by football people." Page 7

Diane Modahl wins fight to clear name after ban

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN CAPE TOWN

DIANE MODAHL, the first British woman athlete to fail a drugs test, yesterday won a 19-month battle to clear her name. The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) decided here that the test that precipitated her suspension was not reliable.

The IAAF verdict was in accord with that of a British Athletic Federation (BAF) appeals panel which last July set aside Modahl's four-year ban. Though eligible from that date to return to competition, her future remained uncertain, pending an IAAF ruling.

"I am absolutely delighted," Modahl, 29, said from Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she is training. "We have finally won this long battle." It began in August 1994 when Modahl was sent home from the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada, as she was about to defend her 800m title. Four months later a BAF disciplinary hearing

ruled that an offence had been committed. She and her husband, Vicente, went to appeal and are now counting the cost of an expensive legal defence. They are suing the BAF for £480,000 over loss of earnings and legal and scientific fees.

Modahl said last night: "It has been a costly fight and not just in financial terms. The powerful organisations in control of sport can make or break you. I believe there were those who wanted to break me."

Pivotal to the case was the laboratory in Lisbon which carried out the test nine weeks before the games. The test showed an abnormally high testosterone reading, suggesting the steroid had been taken to boost performance, but the Modahls produced evidence to show that her urine sample had not been refrigerated and was therefore liable to deterioration. In a statement, the IAAF blamed the laboratory.

Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman, said: "We believe Diane does not have a course of action against us. It should fall on the IAAF to meet all fees incurred by both parties from last October when they did not accept the verdict of our appeals panel."

Drug test doubts, page 48

Ministers move to avert divorce revolt

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ALICE THOMSON

MINISTERS moved last night to avert a crippling backbench rebellion over the Government's divorce law reforms, offering concessions to Conservative opponents.

As the Family Law Bill began its Commons passage, ministers made clear they were not adamant that the "cooling off" period must remain at 12 months. They accepted the House of Lords' change to the Bill so pensions are split at the time of divorce rather than at retirement.

They also said they would consider allowing MPs a conscience vote on tightening rules protecting spouses and children against particular hardship, either financial or otherwise, when the Bill returns next month.

Tory MPs have attacked the reforms for failing to offer sufficient protection to spouses in contested divorce cases, claiming they will be severely harmed by the abolition of the current five-year period.

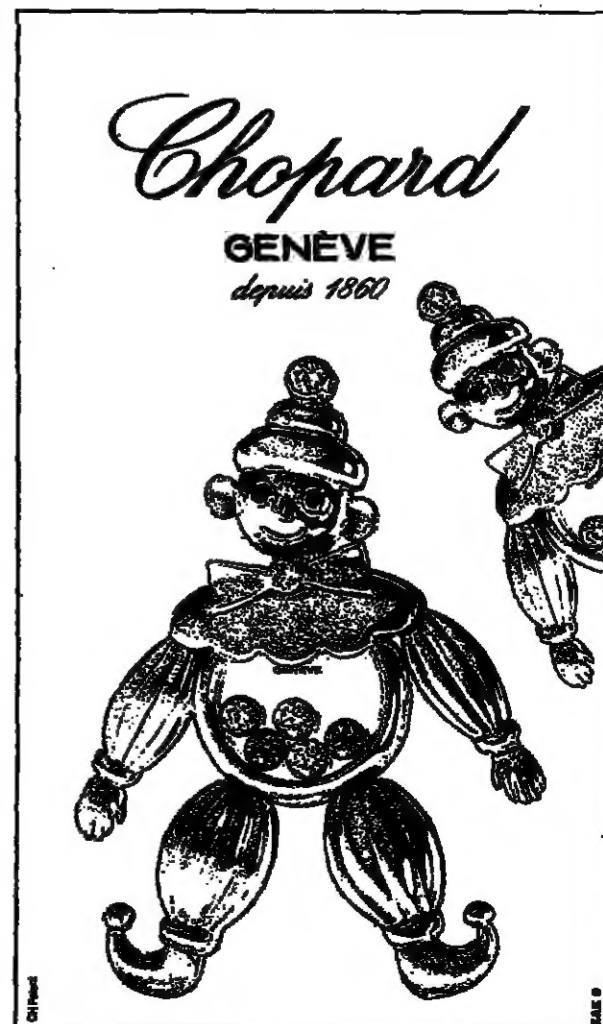
Two former Cabinet ministers led Tory backbench protests over the Bill, which has been heavily criticised for allowing no-fault divorce after 12 months.

In a move welcomed by the Tory critics last night, Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, said that although the Government favoured 12 months, it would help MPs to draft amendments extending the period. Several Tory MPs have called for two years, but ministers believe 18 months the maximum acceptable.

The Bill was drafted by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, who is understood to be open minded about the minimum period, although it has been supported by children's welfare organisations.

Mr Freeman also announced that the Government will not attempt to overturn the Lords' amendment which

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Harman goes bananas in mad cow clash

Politics can produce the paradoxical situation in which it is the craven who plunge boldly forward, and the brave who drag their feet. Watching Mr. Harman yesterday as Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, resisted advancing panic over BSE, and Labour's Harriet Harman went bananas, you could see it happening.

"Bananas" underestimates. Ms Harman threw everything she could find at the occasion. Public confidence had been "hanging by a thread". Public confidence (now unthreaded) was "draining away". Our confidence drained, collapsed

and threadless, we were "swept into a crisis" while ministers, "fuelled by dogma", "dragged their feet" as the "nightmare scenario" loomed. Ms Harman delivered her harangue in a breathless soprano which, hovering somewhere between Cassandra prophesying doom and a housewife throwing dinner at her husband, came to rest at a pitch reminiscent of the nanny near the end of her tether with a hyperactive child.

And Ms Harman achieved the impossible. In fact she achieved several impossible things. First, she roused Stephen Dorrell to anger, something that has never been seen before. Tories cheered. Dorrell



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

is beautiful when he is angry. She also roused Tony Marlow (C, Northampton N) to call her a "stupid cow", a remark he withdrew (at the outraged Speaker's command) while turning, smirking like a naughty boy, to his friends.

The second impossibility was to unite Dorrell and the right-wing Euro-renege Teresa Gorman (C, Billericay) in a moment of unprecedented togetherness. After nine years in Parliament, Mrs Gorman has found something to agree

about with a Tory left-winger. So emotional had Dorrell now become that he was temporarily unable to pronounce encephalopathy, and for Dorrell that's very emotional. When he accused Harman of "ferreting around in the gutter for party advantage", doctors in the House prepared for Mr Dorrell's possible collapse.

The third impossibility was to produce in Labour a populist show so shameless as to embarrass even the Liberals. Simon Hughes, Liberal Dem-

ocrat health spokesman, counselled caution: Paul Tyler, their agriculture spokesman, warned against needless panic. Delicious to see Liberals trapped between their rural voters and their urban ones!

Finally — and this we thought we'd never see — Harman has made a statesman of Douglas Hogg. Our terrier-like Agriculture Minister can bark with the best but, following an hysterical Harman and facing an untinged Gavin Strang (his Labour Shadow), he opted for the couch-side tones of a consultant psychiatrist.

In vain. To represent an English constituency is to know that the British all

suspect, deep down, that someone is trying to poison them. They suspect, too, that somewhere hidden lie countless files of official information too hot for the public to know. Finally, they suspect that all politicians are at all times lying, probably compulsively, either for the hell of it or because it is in their nature.

Couple these primal insecurities with the rage and frustration an electorate is bound to feel towards a Government approaching its eighteenth year in power, and advice to any British cow reading this sketch must be to enjoy each day as it comes. Similar advice may be offered to Tory MPs.

No divorces for a year once new law is passed

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN will become a divorce-free zone for a year when the new divorce laws come into effect. Jonathan Evans, MP, junior minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, said yesterday that when the Family Law Bill becomes law, any new divorce would effectively be outlawed for one year.

The "ban" on new divorce comes about because under the reforms, couples will have to wait a minimum of 12 months, once they have lodged a petition, before being allowed to divorce.

The Law Society predicted

yesterday that there was likely to be a rush by couples wanting to get divorced under the "quickie" procedure of the present law. This can be done in as little as four months if adultery or unreasonable behaviour is alleged.

Yesterday Mr Evans said in an interview on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "In the first year after this legislation comes in nobody will be able to get divorced. We'll have a situation where everybody will be required to go through the one-year period for reflection and consideration. I can confidently tell you that in that period of time there will not be any divorces."

There are about 150,000

divorces a year in Britain. The Family Law Bill, which came before the Commons for its second reading yesterday after a stormy passage in the Lords, will also scrap the notion of fault in divorce.

During the one-year "cooling-off" period — which some critics of the Bill want lengthened to 18 months — couples will have to agree arrangements for children and finances before they are granted the new divorce order (which replaces the two-stage decrees nisi and absolute).

"We're placing the emphasis on reconciliation. We're promoting mediation. We're ensuring that aspects in relation to finance, property and

children are resolved before a divorce is granted and we're also beefing up the law to do with domestic violence," Mr Evans said.

The reforms are not likely to come in before 1998. They are expected to receive Royal Assent this summer and there will then be extensive pilot projects on the mediation schemes and the provision of information for divorcing couples.

The divorce-free year will not put divorce lawyers out of work, however. Nigel Shepherd, chairman of the Solicitors' Family Law Association, said that divorce lawyers would have plenty to do during the one-year period giving legal advice to couples sorting out their arrangements.

There is no power in the Bill to abridge this period for exceptional circumstances such as terminal illness, although we have argued for one.

Whether couples sorted out their affairs through a mediator or not, they would need legal advice as well, he said. "This will remain central."

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Ministers try to avert rebellion

Continued from page 1

defeated the Government on pension-splitting. He told MPs legislation would be introduced "as soon as possible" as a consultation paper is published this summer. However, last night several Tories pressed for a more specific timetable, fear-

ing legislation introduced next autumn might not complete its parliamentary passage before a general election. As expected, Mr Freeman also said all Tories, including ministers, will have a "free vote" on no-fault divorce and the minimum period needed before a divorce is allowed.

John Patten, the former Education Secretary, said the Bill needed substantial re-drafting. It abolished a couple's traditional duty to pledge themselves to each other for life and made marriages totally meaningless.

Economic insecurity remains the Tories' bugbear

By PETER RIDDLE

LABOUR yesterday raised the central political issue of economic insecurity — only to see it overshadowed by another instalment of the beef saga. But starting with the Harriet Harman row in January, via the Scott report, the headlines have been dominated by events, important in themselves, but secondary to the worries of most voters ahead of the next election.

Economic insecurity explains the absence of the "feel-good" factor and goes to the heart of anxieties over intensified global competition. This

has become a central argument in America where protectionists of Right and Left have attacked international corporations. However, in Britain, the main party leaders accept that these pressures are neither going to disappear nor should they be resisted.

The Tory case is that economic growth will create social cohesion and reduce insecurity. Hence the reiteration that Britain is "the enterprise centre of Europe" and the attacks on "job-destroying" measures such as the minimum wage. But even if the Tories can convincingly show that they are best placed

RIDDLE ON POLITICS

to make Britain competitive it would only partially deal with insecurity. Stephen Dorrell put the point well a few months ago: "the necessity to make a full-blooded commitment to a process of constant and quickening change creates a conflict for politicians when voters are yearning for a stability which they believe they have lost". His answer was to rebuild confidence in economic stability.

But that will not be enough to make change acceptable or to reduce the anxieties of these

workings of the supply side. Tony Blair was at pains yesterday to say that Labour could not prevent people losing their jobs but could help them get their next job.

Gordon Brown's proposals are based on the belief that training and education are the key dividing lines between those who prosper in a global economy and those who are left behind. This is similar to the analysis of Robert Reich, the US Labor Secretary, with whom Mr Brown has had frequent discussions, most recently last week.

Governments, it is argued, should aim at encouraging

training through tax relief for people undertaking their own retraining in approved courses. Labour will this week produce a plan for individual learning accounts which would earn tax relief and would be portable. This would replace Labour's commitment to a compulsory training levy — despite opposition from trade union leaders yesterday.

Much of the costing is still unclear — but at least the plan addresses public fears about uncertain job prospects. These will not be answered by a few quarters of rising living standards, tax cuts and slogans about enterprise.



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Instructor blamed for soldiers' deaths

An Army gunnery instructor was responsible for the death of two soldiers killed by a stray shell while watching an artillery demonstration, a court martial was told yesterday. Corporals Robert Hawkesley and Martin Bailey of The Queen's Royal Lancers died during an exercise at Suffield in Canada in June 1994 run by Major Jonathan Ginder, Major Ginder, of 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery, denied two charges of manslaughter.

Lieutenant-Colonel Richard Austin, for the prosecution, told the court martial at Bulford in Wiltshire that there appeared to be discrepancies in the guns' sights. Colonel Austin said it was Major Ginder's duty to guard against such discrepancies. The hearing continues.

Tourist killings denied

The man accused of murdering seven young backpackers, including two Britons, in Australia pleaded not guilty yesterday on the first day of a trial in Sydney that is expected to last up to six months. Ivan Milat, 51, a roadworker who has been in custody for nearly two years, also denied kidnapping British tourist Paul O'Leary, who comes from the Midlands.

MP faces reprimand

John Austin-Walker, the Labour MP who spoke at Sinn Féin's annual conference and attacked John Major's handling of the Irish peace process is to be reprimanded by Donald Dewar, Labour's chief whip. Mr Austin-Walker, MP for Woolwich, has been asked for a transcript of his remarks when he praised Gerry Adams and said he disagreed with Labour's bi-partisan approach to Ulster.

Party loses £40,000

Police are investigating a former Labour parliamentary candidate over the apparent misappropriation of up to £40,000. David Hurst, 34, resigned last year as candidate for Bath after the disclosure that he had claimed unemployment benefit while working as an accountant for 50 local firms. Officials have now discovered money missing from the Bath party, of which Mr Hurst was treasurer.

Student hardship claim

One in three students misses lectures because they are working in part-time jobs to support themselves at university or college, according to the National Union of Students. A survey also disclosed that employment during term time causes one in five students to miss deadlines for coursework. A spokesman said: "Record levels of hardship are forcing students to sacrifice their studies."

Naval officer settles

A Royal Navy officer who collapsed and suffered brain damage while on a training course settled out of court with the Ministry of Defence for an undisclosed figure yesterday. Sub Lieutenant Simon Rowland, 29, of Newton Abbott, Dorset, was in a coma for 15 days after running into a tree in the New Forest in 1989.

Pub spirited to Germany

A Victorian pub in Leeds is to be replicated 20 times across Germany. The idea stemmed from a visit by a delegation of German brewery chiefs to the Leeds-based brewers Joshua Tetley to set up an export market. They were shown around the Victoria Hotel in Great George Street and fell in love with it. The Germans hope to convert existing pubs or build the replicas from scratch over the next three years.

Duo enjoy hall of fame

A West Country musical duo who risked their homes to hire the Albert Hall for a night played three encores to a near sell-out crowd. Steve Knightley and Phil Beer, known as Show of Hands, spent £24,000 to hire the London venue on Sunday night but sold most of the 3,500 tickets. "It was an absolutely fantastic night," a spokeswoman said. They had covered their costs and raised £1,500 for charity.

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Beef ban

Continued from page 1
move beef from school menus". He repeated the scientists' advice that providing present controls were fully implemented, "any BSE-related risk from eating beef or beef products is likely to be extremely small".

Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, accused ministers of "reckless disregard for public health" and blamed the "dogma" of deregulation for having swept the country into crisis. "Last week I said public confidence was hanging by a thread. Now it has collapsed."

The Consumers' Association — one of Britain's most influential independent watchdogs — maintained that the only way to avoid the risk of BSE was to stop eating beef altogether. It accused the Government of failing to reassure consumers over the possible dangers of eating beef and beef-derived products. "The Government's advice has done nothing to answer the key consumer concerns about beef," it said.

The Government's problems at home increased when fast food giant Burger King announced that it was banning British beef from its restaurants. The chain is following in the footsteps of McDonald's. Wendy's burger bars amid plummeting consumer confidence in the safety of home-produced beef. From Saturday all Burger King burgers would be made from non-British beef but British-made burgers would remain on the menu until then.

Mr Hogg told the Commons that consumer confidence was fragile but promised: "I shall monitor it with scrupulous care and I shall not hesitate to come before the House with further measures if it is clear that they are justified by the circumstances."

CSA pays £100 to innocent fathers

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE price of being wrongly labelled a cad by the Child Support Agency was set at £100 yesterday. Men who are sent maintenance claim forms for children they never fathered will be given financial compensation.

A part-time independent complaints examiner will be appointed at an annual cost of £1 million to cope with the 32,000 parents a year aggrieved by the agency's performance. A compensation scheme is also being introduced for mothers whose maintenance is delayed by the CSA's bureaucratic slowness. This is unlikely to be extravagant as the planned budget runs only to £100,000 a year.

"It is really a matter of looking at each case individually. This is taxpayers' money," said Andrew Mitchell, a Social Security Minister. Men claim their lives have been ruined by receiving a maintenance inquiry form identifying them as the father of a stranger's child. Mr Mitchell said the £100 was compensation for "upset and inconvenience".

A man cited in the Parliamentary Ombudsman's report on the CSA a fortnight ago lost his girlfriend, had his birthday and Christmas ruined, cancelled a trip abroad and had to take time off work. The CSA had sent him a form because his date of birth matched that of a man it was pursuing although his name was different. The agency sent him £3.20 compensation.

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'A man who robbed the rich to give to the poor is rather out of fashion these days'

Sheriff of Nottingham banishes Robin at last

By Andrew Pierce

ROBIN HOOD is being retired by Nottingham's civic leaders because they think his swashbuckling image is out of date.

The Sheriff of Nottingham has joined forces with Tony Blair's new Labour Party to try to bury the legendary outlaw and champion of the poor. Four advertising agencies have been invited by Nottingham First, a consortium of businessmen supported by the Labour-controlled city council, to design a new symbol for the city that will have no link to the redistribution of wealth.

The Labour council believes that Robin Hood and his Merry Men are the wrong image for a city at the cutting edge of the technological revolution.

Roy Greensmith, the Sheriff of Nottingham, said: "The legend of Robin Hood is of a person with a soul and a civic conscience, a man who robbed the rich to give to the poor. That is rather out of fashion these days."

The Sheriff, a Labour councillor who wears a gold-braid replica of a 12th-century outfit, complete with jewelled sword, said: "Torvill and Dean, Nottingham Forest and Brian Clough are more popular here."

Mary Chamberlain, the secretary of the Robin Hood Society, was appalled. "They have gone crazy. Robin Hood is Nottingham. He is one of the best-known figures in world history."

Simon Wilkinson, chief executive of Nottingham First, whose members include lawyers and bankers, was unapologetic. He said: "As a child I never liked Robin Hood. I am afraid I always



They rode through the glen: clockwise from top left, Douglas Fairbanks senior, Kevin Costner, Disney's Robin Hood fox and Richard Greene

preferred the Sheriff of Nottingham. Men in doublets, leotards and tights simply do not project the right image for a modern and vibrant city. Nottingham is the headquarters of Boots, you know."

Bob White, director of corporate affairs at the city council, says the outlaw presents a poor impression of the city. "Research has shown it to be a lightweight image," he said. "When we're trying to sell the city, say to a major electrical company from

Germany, if they think of Robin Hood when they think of Nottingham they might get the wrong impression."

Each year 1.5 million tourists converge on Nottingham, many in pursuit of the legendary figure whose grave has never been found. Nottingham Castle dominates the coat of arms of the city, which began as a Saxon settlement. *Vivit Post Funera Virtus* (virtue outlives death) is the city's motto. Images of Robin Hood adorn many shop windows.

The historical status of Robin of Loxley, a humble miller's son, is a matter of continuing academic argument. Scholars are prepared to argue that he was a yeoman turned poacher who, abused by the Sheriff of Nottingham, defied royal authority and robbed the rich to give to the poor.

He is thought to have lived in the late 12th or early 13th century and was a fearless opponent of the Sheriff, his evil sidekick Guy of Gisborne and Prince John. Maid Marion was invented several centuries later. The tale was embroidered in later years when the Victorians turned Robin into a nobleman, the Earl of Huntingdon, to make him a more respectable hero.

Ian Walker, managing director of the Tales of Robin Hood, one of many tourist attractions built around the legends, said: "I employ 45 people who owe their job to Robin Hood. Nobody would even have heard of Nottingham if it were not for him."

Errol Flynn, Sean Connery, Kevin Costner, Richard Greene, Mel Brooks and even John Cleese have all taken up the hero's bow and arrow. The 800-year Major Oak, the tree in Sherwood in which the outlaws were said to have hidden from the Sheriff, is a shrine for disciples.

Sir James Holt, Professor of Medieval History at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, the country's leading authority on Robin Hood, said: "There is great international interest in Robin Hood. How can they say now that he is out of date? He has been dead for 700 years."

For centuries ballads, poems, operas, plays, films and television have transmitted the essentials of the myth.



Yesterday's man: the statue of Robin Hood at the foot of Nottingham Castle

Robin is recast for each generation. Kevin Costner's 1991 film, *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*, was one of the biggest box office successes for years. A Robin Hood exhibition, which will be shipped around the world, opens at the University of

Oldenburg in Germany later this year.

They may be unsure about the potency of the symbol in Nottingham but Americans have no doubt about the lure of Sherwood Forest. Terry Baker, from Rochester, New York, said in Nottingham

yesterday: "The main reason we came here was because of the link-up between Robin Hood, Nottingham Castle and Sherwood Forest. He is a big name in the States where everybody's heard of him."

Leading article, page 19

£78m for opera is attacked in court

By Dalva Alberg
Arts Correspondent

THE Arts Council's decision to award £78 million of National Lottery cash to the Royal Opera House in London for redevelopment was branded "unlawful and intolerable" in the High Court yesterday.

In an action brought by Jo Weir, chairman of the Covent Garden Community Association, Leolin Price, QC, argued that the council agreed to fund a redevelopment on land which it jointly administrates and manages.

"The conflict between the council's statutory responsibility for choosing between competing applicants for lottery money and its interest in this particular intended distribution is intolerable," he said.

Judge Tucker deferred the application for a judicial review, the first legal challenge to a lottery award, until next month.

Jim Monahan, an architect representing the community association, said later: "We took the Arts Council to court over the incestuous relationship between them and the Royal Opera House." The association believed there was a conflict of interest in money being given to the Covent Garden Land Development, as the Arts Council was a joint trustee.

He added: "The judge has not given us leave, but he hasn't thrown the case out. He has deferred the case, which seems a very favourable decision."

If permission for a judicial review is granted, the legal dispute will go to a full hearing at a later date. It could dampen the hopes of Jeremy Isaacs, General Director of the opera house, that the last complications surrounding the project will be solved quickly and the £213 million project will be able to go ahead without delay.

Lord Bristol sells up in case Labour gets in

By Carol Midgley
and John Shaw

THE Marquess of Bristol said yesterday that the prospect of a Labour Government was a deciding factor in his decision to sell the contents of the private apartments at his family home, Ickworth.

Lord Bristol, 41, who has fought a long-running battle with drugs, is expected to raise more than £1 million from the sale of paintings and furniture from the east wing of Ickworth, near Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, which has been the family home since the 18th century.

Lord Bristol said that since the age of 16 he had been responsible for the house, which cost £350,000 a year to run, "and I have decided that enough has been expended on a building I do not own."

It had cost £7 million to maintain over the years and after talks with trustees the sale had been decided upon "in view of the political climate we are living in today and the climate we may have to live in tomorrow."

Asked if that involved the possibility of a Labour Government he said: "Yes. When the Labour Government was in power they discussed penal taxation and wealth taxes which quite frankly would be crippling for someone in my



Lord Bristol said he would miss the shooting

position. I think it is going to be very detrimental for the owners of country houses."

He said: "This is not a question of having to sell but of making a financial decision before it's too late. At my age I feel I want to have a lot less financial hassle but I will miss the shooting," he said.

He will now divide his time between a five-bedroom house in the grounds during the summer and a house he is building in the Bahamas. The move is being made on medical advice following recent bouts of pneumonia.

In a frank news conference at the house he said: "The move marks a new start in my

life. I will feel a tremendous burden lifted from my shoulders when I shed this responsibility which has been round my neck for 20 years."

Ickworth passed to the nation in lieu of death duties in 1956. The family has lived in the east wing since the 1800s and it is currently on a 99-year lease from the National Trust. Lord Bristol, who served a ten-month jail sentence for heroin and cocaine abuse imposed in December 1993, took reporters on a tour of the house yesterday, spoke openly about his addiction and warned young people to stay away from drugs. "Don't ever experiment with drugs, otherwise they will change your life and take over you," he said. "Once you experiment the danger is that you become addicted."

His manner was in marked contrast to previous public appearances when he looked pale, withdrawn and wore sunglasses. Lord Bristol said he had been on a drug rehabilitation programme for 18 months and had just completed his probation. He said: "I have never felt as well as I do at the moment."

Lord Bristol inherited 4,000 acres and once boasted a fortune of £35 million. When he was sentenced for possessing drugs the court was told he had spent nearly £7 million in ten years on his addiction.

Oasis a mirage to His Honour

By Andrew Pierce

A FORMER drummer with the band Oasis started a High Court battle yesterday over royalties, only to discover that the judge had never heard of the band.

Tony McCarrroll, who was sacked last April, is suing Liam and Noel Gallagher, Paul Arthurs and Paul McGuigan for 20 per cent of the royalties for *Definitely Maybe*, the fastest selling debut album in British recording history. He is also claiming unpaid money for the follow-up disc, which sold five million copies.

But as the proceedings began yesterday Mr Justice Harman, 65, demonstrated once again that he is the scourge of all things that smack of popular culture.

The Old Etonian, who once memorably asked "who is Gazza?", revealed he is one of the few people who has not heard of the hell-raising band as famed for its performances off the stage as on.

At a preliminary High Court hearing Andrew Sutcliffe, QC, for Oasis, said: "I represent a band whom your Honour may have heard of, Oasis." Mr Justice Harman, whose interests include hunting, shooting, fishing and stalking, replied: "I certainly have not heard of the band, I

don't listen to bands." When it was pointed out that the band's record company was Sony, Mr Harman said: "Now there is somebody I have heard of."

Mr McCarrroll is now seeking unpaid royalties for the hit singles *Some Might Say* and *Whatever*, and two albums that include *What's the Story, Morning Glory?*

At last month's pop industry awards the band lived up to its stormy reputation when, having won the best album award for *What's the Story*, it sang an obscene version of a song by its deadly rivals Blur. Noel Gallagher, the songwriter, collecting the best band award, declared there were only seven people in the room who offered young people any hope: the group, its manager, and Tony Blair, who had handed out one of the awards.

Jonathan Rayner James, QC, for Mr McCarrroll, said his client had only one source of income: Oasis.

Mr Justice Harman directed that the case against Oasis should be heard in May. But he first established that any money which could be awarded to Mr McCarrroll would not be misused. He said: "It's not going to be put on a horse in the meantime, is it?"

Company director wins £140,000 in equality case

By Peter Foster

A COMPANY director dismissed after she complained about being paid less than her male opposite number has won a £140,000 settlement from her former employers. The case was last night hailed by the Equal Opportunities Commission as a triumph for the rights of women in executive jobs.

Christine Esplin, 48, a personnel director, was promoted to the board of a Sussex clothing retailer in 1993 at the same time as its male merchandising director. When she discovered her salary package of £42,500 with company car and pension benefits was less than his, she lodged an equal pay claim with an industrial tribunal.

Mrs Esplin told the company chairman of her actions, and about two weeks later she returned from holiday to find she had been dismissed. Mrs Esplin, who joined the company in 1987, then claimed she had been victimised because of the earlier pay dispute and, backed by the commission, she challenged the dismissal at an industrial tribunal in Brighton.

QS Familywear settled the dispute informally, offering Mrs Esplin £120,000 and £20,000 in enhanced pension contributions. Hilary Slater,



Mrs Esplin won an out-of-court settlement

the commission's principal legal officer, said the size of the settlement, the largest in the organisation's history, was encouraging. "This sort of money shows that women can now be properly compensated for the very real losses they suffer through discrimination."

Until 1993 claims under the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act were capped at £11,000 but, after a European Court of Justice ruling on a case involving South West Hampshire Health Authority, there are now no limits to compensation levels.

Lady Brittan, deputy chairwoman of the commission, said it had backed Mrs

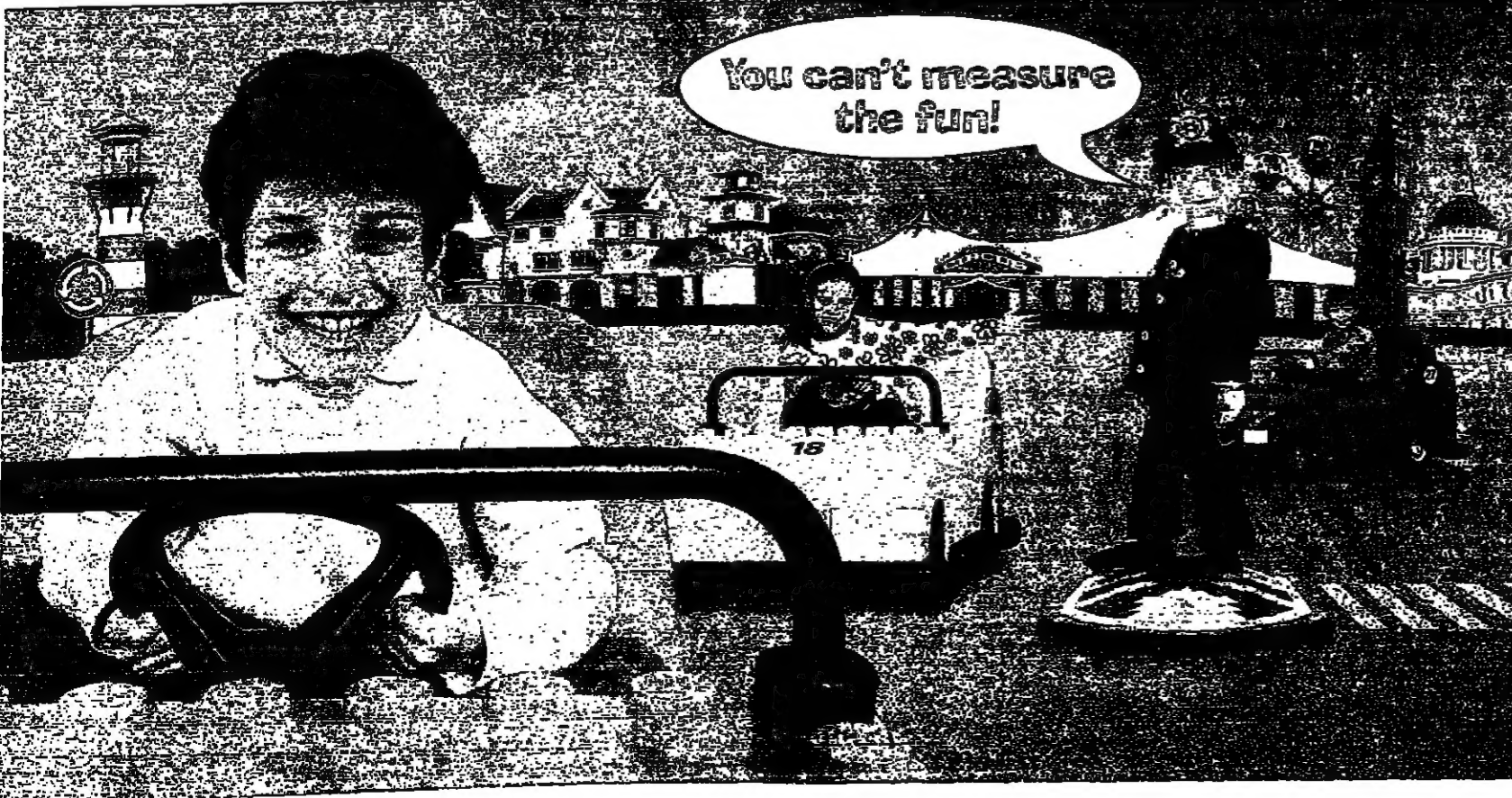
Esplin's case because of concerns over top women's pay: "At present, women directors only receive 72 per cent of male director pay," she said.

In a statement from QS Holdings Plc yesterday, the company said it continued to deny any allegations of sexual discrimination and unfair dismissal. The settlement, said the company, reflected the cost of the two-year notice period in Mrs Esplin's contract. An out-of-court settlement had been reached to avoid "further costs and use of valuable top management time".

Mrs Esplin, of Hassocks, West Sussex, has been looking for another job since June. She said the money would come in very useful. "I have been doing some voluntary work in our village and it will give me some breathing space to continue with this while looking for work," she said.

She added that her efforts to find a job had been hampered by having to include the dismissal on her curriculum vitae. Following the settlement she will now have a reference from her former employers.

She said: "I have been working solidly for the last 25 years and I shall now take some time off to reflect. I may even move outside the retail industry even though I miss the camaraderie and responsibility of my old job."



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Paralysed rugby player sues referee and opponent for £1m

By ADRIAN LEE

A YOUNG rugby player yesterday blamed a referee and an opponent for an accident that left him paralysed. Ben Smoldon, 21, is claiming more than £1 million damages from the two in the first case in the British courts of a sportsman suing a referee for negligence.

Mr Smoldon, who was 17 when his neck was broken, claims the opposing prop forward, Thomas Whitworth, broke the rules by helping to collapse the scrum and that Michael Nolan, the referee, should have acted earlier to prevent the accident. Both deny liability.

Graham Rowntree, an England front-row forward, and Peter Wheeler, a former international, are expected to give evidence in the High Court for the defendants, who are supported by the Rugby Football Union.

Mr Smoldon, who is paralysed from the shoulders down, was helped into court in a wheelchair by a carer who turned the pages of documents for him. He said he had not intended to play in the game because he had a county trial two days later, but turned out because his side, Sutton Coldfield Colts, was short of players.

His counsel, Peter Andrews, QC, told Mr Justice Curtis that Mr



Michael Nolan, the referee, left, and Thomas Whitworth, the opposing team's tight-head prop forward. Both deny liability.

Smoldon, a hooker, suffered catastrophic injuries when the scrum collapsed.

The court was told that the game against Burton upon Trent Colts, in October 1991, had been ill-tempered. It was alleged that the referee had allowed 25 previous scrum collapses to go unpunished. Two players had been sent off; several needed treatment for neck injuries and a touch judge had warned that someone would get hurt. But, Mr Andrews said, the referee had said that he could do nothing about it.

Mr Smoldon, the Sutton Coldfield captain, told the court he felt the breath knocked from his body in the

final scrum, which had already collapsed and reformed twice. "I can remember on going down that I was leaning on my left hand side and that I felt a blow to my neck. I thought I was winded and blacked out momentarily."

His body was then forced backwards and he was left hanging on to a colleague before losing his grip. "I can remember falling down to the floor on my back. My legs felt numb." He had not walked since.

He said Mr Whitworth had previously played aggressively and there had been frequent wrestling between the two front rows, but the referee did not impose his author-

ity, warn of the dangers or instruct the players on the rules.

Mr Smoldon said he had never before played in a game where the scrum had collapsed so often. "I would say he [Whitworth] played a part in the collapsing of the scrum." The game, played at Burton in Staffordshire, was abandoned ten minutes from time with the home side leading 17-10.

Mr Andrews said Mr Nolan "owed the players a duty of care" and should have been both vigilant and strict in enforcing the laws. "Unfortunately, on this afternoon Mr Nolan did not measure up to the standard that one should and would expect from a competent referee. He failed to take proper steps to prevent the risk of serious injury."

He said Mr Whitworth was also negligent in failing to take the correct position for the scrum, which meant Mr Smoldon's body was not supported when the two packs of forwards locked together.

Questioned by Christopher Symons, QC, for Mr Whitworth, Mr Smoldon, from Sutton Coldfield in the West Midlands, conceded that his own side could have been responsible for some of the earlier scrummaging problems. Mr Symons said: "It was no more than an accident, wasn't it?"

The case continues.



Ben Smoldon arriving at the court in his wheelchair yesterday

Officials covered by insurance

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ALL match officials — referees, touch judges and even sponge men — are insured for public liability under a Rugby Football Union scheme which costs the individuals nothing.

Any club affiliated to the RFU is compelled to take out insurance against accidental death and disability, either through the RFU or by participating in a scheme offering equal benefits. Clubs are also encouraged to suggest to players the need for personal insurance.

Public liability was introduced for players and officials in the 1989-90 season and the indemnity limit was set at £1 million. In 1992-93, the RFU accepted a recommendation to increase the limit to £5 million but notes that "cover does not operate in respect of incidents arising out of a deliberate breach by insured person of RFU rules, directives, and regulations".

Payment for referees was confirmed last weekend, but will apply only to officials at the professional end of the game.

Biting wind and nipping corgis mark return of royals to Poland

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN WARSAW

THE Queen began a three-day state visit to Poland yesterday, the first by a reigning British monarch to a country which has not had a king of its own for 201 years.

Accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, the Queen arrived in Warsaw wrapped in a fur coat against the sharp tail end of a central European winter. Watched by a large and animated crowd, she was greeted at the presidential palace by President Kwasniewski, who had ousted Lech Walesa from his country's top position in last November's elections.

The Queen's visit, in return for one made by Mr Walesa, then President, to London in 1991, is intended to underline support for Poland's return to democracy and to encourage the country's ambition to join Western institutions. This month's White Paper on Europe backed expansion of the European Union, particularly in Central Europe, but some diplomats are anxious to soft-pedal Poland's desire to join Nato while Russian elections are pending.

The Queen, however, showed no such equivocation when she told President Kwasniewski in a speech at a state banquet last night: "We strongly support the enlargement of the European Union and of Nato; we welcome your aspirations to join these institutions."

One of the Queen's first duties was a visit, added to her programme at the last minute, to lay a wreath at the grim marble memorial on the

site of the Umschlagplatz in central Warsaw, where thousands of Polish Jews were loaded into railway wagons for their last journey to the Treblinka. The visit was arranged after members of the Jewish community in Britain had expressed surprise last week that the Queen would not be visiting Auschwitz or any other Holocaust memorial in Poland.

She laid another wreath at Warsaw's tomb of the unknown soldier, where she met Polish and British war veterans. More than 250,000 Polish servicemen fought with the Allies during the Second World War. In her speech last night, the Queen referred to Poland's own wartime suffering: "The name of Warsaw, and the heroism and tragedy of the uprisings in 1944, and earlier in the ghetto, will never be forgotten in Britain as an inspiring example of courage and faith. No ally could do enough to help Warsaw in those dark days, but I am proud that we did everything we could."

The Queen had been in the country barely half an hour when she was obliged to speak two words of Polish. Reviewing a guard of honour at the presidential palace, she stopped before the assembled troops and said to them, rather quietly: "Czolem zolnierze" (welcome, soldiers). They roared back in Polish, extremely loudly: "Hail Your Majesty", a cry not heard in the land since King Stanislaw vacated the throne in 1795.

The guard of honour marched off in goose step reminiscent of their recent Russian military tradition, which will presumably have to be abolished if the country ever does join Nato.

The Queen, meanwhile, appointed the President a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath; he in return invested her with the Order of the White Eagle, the highest award in the Polish armoury of decorations.

The only members of the crowd apparently unimpressed by their royal visitor were eight representatives of the Polish Kermel Club (Welsh Corgi section) who would have nipped the royal ankles had their owners not held them up for a face-to-face encounter with a fellow enthusiast.



Lech Walesa: visited London in 1991

Leading article, page 19
Photograph, page 24

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Council ignored health warning on flats to save money

REPORTS BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE leaders on Westminster City Council secretly decided to put homeless families into asbestos-ridden high-rise flats in an attempt to save millions of pounds and to thwart a bid by tenants to buy out the estate.

The exposure may result in severe health risks, said the 200,000-word independent report into why 150 homeless families were housed in the two 21-storey blocks in Paddington, west London. It found that the decision was influenced by its advantage to the local Tory party, and that the officials were browbeaten and then ignored by the council's unofficial chairman's group, led by Dame Shirley Porter and Barry Legg, who is now MP for Milton Keynes South West.

John Barratt, the former chief executive of Cambridgeshire County Council who

drew up the report, concluded that the council's management of the two blocks was unacceptable and that councillors were more interested in saving money than listening to warnings.

He decided that the council's main objective was to stop tenants taking over the Wallerton and Elgin estates (WECH), because this would cost the council millions of pounds having to repair the flats before they were handed over.

The report traced the decision, taken in 1989, to house the homeless in Hermes and Chantry blocks — known as the Points — to the chairman's group, then led by Mr Legg, Tory chief whip on the council. Its decisions were taken without reference to the housing committee.

"I have to conclude ... that the decision to accommodate

homeless families in the Points was taken by chairmen, influenced by considerations of party advantage," Mr Barratt says.

The overriding objective of the chairmen became the defeat of the tenants' bid, the report says, and the introduction of homeless families offered a way of achieving this.

"The coincidence of this objective with the officers' task of reducing homelessness costs to within budget made the use of the Points for housing homeless families extremely attractive."

"Despite the availability of the clearest advice and instructions to the contrary, those acting on behalf of a public body repeatedly took risks, for a variety of reasons ... with the health of people who ought to have been entitled to assume that such risks were not being taken."

"The exposure suffered by some individuals may yet result in serious health consequences. Even where the risks were low the protracted exposure may also yet result in serious health consequences."

The report is to be debated at a public meeting of the council on April 4. Families who were moved into the blocks have been told to contact a helpline, and several said yesterday that they were considering suing the council for damages.

Allegations that homeless people were moved into the flats as part of a gerrymandering policy by the council were not proven by the asbestos report.



Abel Goodman with his wife last month. He was the fourth patient in Britain to be fitted with a mechanical heart

Man with mechanical heart dies

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

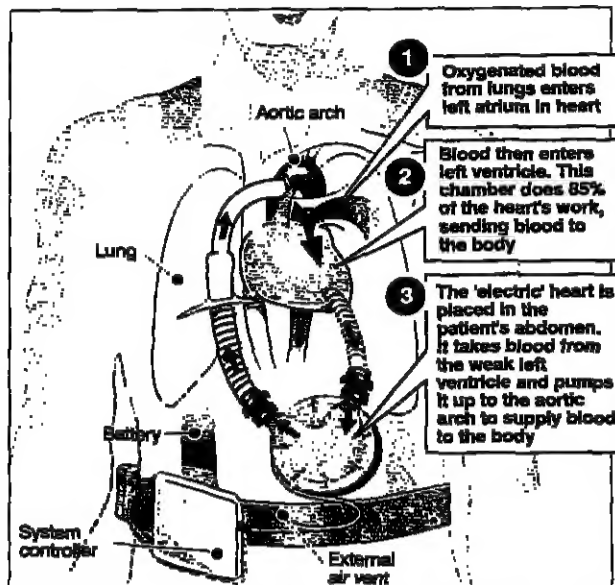
A PATIENT who had been fitted with a battery-powered heart, in the programme to develop a mechanical substitute for human transplants, has died.

The death of Abel Goodman, 64, a London film producer from Wimbledon who had survived for five months with the pneumatic pump, the size of a grapefruit, represents a setback for the programme. He was never well enough to leave hospital. Last week surgeons detected a problem with the pump and removed it in a five-hour operation on Saturday.

Mr Goodman had been thought to be recovering well in intensive care but on Sunday night his condition deteriorated. He died 30 hours after the operation with his wife Irene and their two children at his side.

Stephen Westaby, who led the surgical team at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, said yesterday that Mr Goodman's own heart, which had been left in his body, had made a "remarkable recovery" during the months it had been allowed to rest.

"The mechanical heart was



The demand for a mechanical substitute for the natural heart has arisen because of a shortage of donors and problems with transplants which require expensive courses of drugs and reduce resistance to infection.

The device is implanted in the abdomen below the heart and connected to its left ventricle. It is powered by a battery pack worn around the waist and connected through a hole in the abdominal wall.

Last month, Mr Westaby said the device implanted in Mr Goodman had worked well. "The artificial heart has saved his life on many occasions. We are winning. There is no doubt we are going to make mechanical hearts a success within two years."

Early in the new year, Mr Goodman developed flu followed by a near fatal infection with a staphylococcus bacterium. But for that setback he might have recovered enough to be allowed home, Mr Westaby said.

Mike Fleming, director of personnel and administration at the hospital, said everyone was extremely upset and sent their sympathies to Mr Goodman's family.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hepatitis all-clear for patients

Blood tests have shown that none of the patients operated on by a doctor carrying the hepatitis B virus has contracted the disease. The 27 patients were recalled for blood tests after surgery at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, between November last year and January. They will be retested in three months.

A junior surgeon on a short-term contract was found to have had the disease after leaving the hospital.

Killing denied

Daio Powell, 22, who joined the Perth-based Western Reds from Bradford Northern for the 1995 Australian rugby league season, denied at the Western Australian Supreme Court killing an Australian man in a street fight last year outside a nightclub.

Tate gets £3.8m

The Tate Gallery Liverpool has been awarded £3.8 million by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The gallery, which opened in 1988, urgently needs more space for exhibitions and educational activities. New rooms, to be created on the top floor, will open in May 1998.

Rail crash trial

Stewart Kernan, 23, of Begbroke, Oxfordshire, was committed to trial at Crown Court by Witney magistrates charged with endangering public safety after he left his van on a railway line. No one was hurt when a freight train ran into the van.

Cash on a plate

A collection of 115 political mugs and plates commemorating political figures from the Tolpuddle Martyrs to Margaret Thatcher, assembled by the former TUC president Clive Jenkins, 69, fetched £9,840 at Phillips in London yesterday.

18 holes in one

A Suffolk golfer can claim a round in one. When Neville Rowlandson, 56, drove off on the 420-yard first hole at the Felixstowe Ferry club, his ball hit a wooden sign at the front of the tee, bounced 25 yards to the 18th green, hit the flag and dropped in the hole.



Dame Shirley Porter and Barry Legg, who were found to have browbeaten council officials

'Vote-rigging' report awaited

THE accusation that Westminster Council put families into asbestos-riddled flats comes as the final report on the council's alleged "homes-for-votes" policy is awaited.

John Magill, the district auditor, has been looking into an alleged vote-rigging strategy by the Tory group. His provisional report, in January 1994, found that the Conservatives had shored up their slim

town hall majority by tempting potential Tory voters to buy council homes in marginal wards and sealing vacant homes to deter squatters. The homeless were then accommodated in expensive temporary accommodation.

Dame Shirley Porter, then leader of Westminster City Council, four other councillors and four officers all deny the charge and say they did nothing

unlawful. They argue that the housing policy was intended to save money and make home ownership available to middle-income families.

If Mr Magill's final report confirms his earlier finding he will seek a High Court order requiring the nine to pay back £29 million that the policy is estimated to have cost and disqualifying them from holding public office.

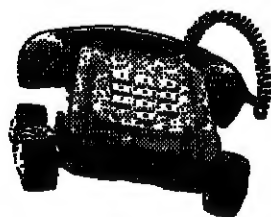
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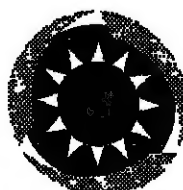
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Five footballing greats stamp their class on Euro championship

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

FIVE of Britain's greatest footballers — William "Dixie" Dean, Bobby Moore, Duncan Edwards, Billy Wright and Danny Blanchflower — are commemorated in a new set of stamps chosen in a nationwide poll.

For the first time the public was asked to vote for whose head would be on a stamp. The shortlist of ten was restricted to players who were dead because no living

person other than a member of the Royal Family is allowed to appear on British stamps.

Readers of *The Times*, who filled in a ballot form in the paper last September, were among the thousands of people who voted. The shortlist was chosen from 41 contenders by a panel including Jimmy Hill, the television analyst, and Rob Hughes, football correspondent of *The Times*. The stamps commemorate the Euro '96 football championship this June and will be sold from May

14. Terry Venables, the England coach, said: "These five would have been my first selections. I do not think the public could have chosen better."

The remaining players were: Peter Doherty, the Northern Ireland midfielder player; Alex James, the schemer of the outstanding Arsenal and Scottish teams in the 1920s and 1930s; Joe Mercer, another Arsenal creator and England international; Billy Meredith, the Welsh winger; and Frank Swift, the Manchester City

and England goalkeeper. Unusually, only one of the five footballers selected for the special stamps was a forward. Most public polls tend to be biased against midfield players and particularly defenders, who are perceived to be less glamorous than match-winning goalscorers.

Dean was clearly an outstanding contender because he scored a record 60 goals in a single first-division season. Between 1924 and 1940, he amassed 379 goals in a career of 437 games for

Tranmere, Everton, Notts County and England, for whom he played in 16 matches.

Moore captained England in their greatest triumph, the 1966 World Cup victory. But he was also a masterly reader of the game who, as a central defender, broke up attacks with calm interceptions rather than particularly sharp tackling. Pele regarded him as his greatest opponent.

Edwards was a "Busby Babe" who scored goals but was primarily an attacking wing-half for

Manchester United and England. He has a mythical status in football because he died, aged 21, in the Munich air disaster in 1958, his promise unfulfilled.

Wright won 105 caps for England, 90 of them as captain. He was a fierce-lacking half-back, the cornerstone of a defence, who played for Wolverhampton Wanderers from 1941-59 and was immensely loyal to his club and his country.

Danny Blanchflower is the one non-Englishman in the final five

although he played largely in the Football League. The Ulsterman captained Tottenham Hotspur when they became the first club this century to complete the double of FA Cup and first division title in 1960-61. He was renowned for his eloquence, on and off the pitch, and for the precision of his passing.

The Royal Mail, which conducted the poll, will announce the result of a ballot for Britain's greatest player and for the greatest club side on May 14.

Airport mugger attacks teacher with ice pick

By TIM JONES

A YOUNG British teacher was attacked by a mugger wielding an ice pick minutes after landing at Manila airport in the Philippines.

Jacqueline Kane, 22, who was stabbed twice in the chest, managed to stagger to a youth hostel to summon help. She was recovering in hospital yesterday.

Miss Kane, who teaches English at a school in Japan,

had flown to Manila to meet friends and begin a tour of the country. She had just cleared customs and was waiting for a taxi when the thief attacked her when she refused to surrender her bag.

After the attack, she was rushed to the San Juan de Dios hospital in the capital and given emergency treatment. John Kane, 59, her father, who runs a horticultural nursery at Wooler, Northumberland, said: "It is a horrifying thing to happen. She is a slight girl and must have looked vulnerable. She was stabbed twice in the chest with an ice pick but somehow managed to get to the hostel herself."

Mr Kane, whose wife Wilma is a teacher at Glendale Middle School in Wooler, added: "I am quite certain she would have put up a fight. She is only small but plucky. I worry about her all the



Jacqueline Kane was stabbed twice in the chest

time being out there. But she is strong willed and independent and was determined to go abroad to teach and we didn't like to stand in her way."

Mr Kane said his daughter, who graduated from Leicester University last July, had an ambition to work in the Diplomatic Service and wanted to gain as much travel experience as possible. "She had

intended to meet up with some people to travel in the Philippines but was alone when the attack occurred. We are very proud of her. She is doing well as a teacher and has signed up for another year in Japan," Mr Kane said.

The British Embassy said: "She is resting in hospital at the moment and fortunately no vital organs were hit."

Film-maker to challenge ancient blasphemy law

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE director of a film that includes scenes of Christ on the cross being caressed by a nun is to challenge Britain's blasphemy law in the European Court of Human Rights tomorrow.

Nigel Wingrove will tell the Strasbourg court that his rights to freedom of expression were infringed when the British Board of Film Classification banned *Visions of Ecstasy* on the ground that it was blasphemous. The right to free speech is guaranteed under Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

If Mr Wingrove succeeds, the Government may be forced to ask Parliament to reconsider the blasphemy law, which dates from the Middle Ages. Although the Law Commission decreed in 1985 that the law should be abolished, and the Church of England

General Synod has suggested that it be replaced by legislation outlawing religious discrimination, the Home Office had said it has no immediate plans for reform.

Geoffrey Robertson, QC, acting for Mr Wingrove, will tell the court that Britain's blasphemy laws are anachronistic and discriminatory as they protect only Christianity among the faiths practised in this country.

He said yesterday: "The British Government is defending the indefensible: an ancient law which discriminates on religious grounds and imposes unnecessary censorship on writers and artists. Blasphemy laws are the hallmark of primitive, not progressive, societies."

Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*, has provided a statement supporting Mr Wingrove that will be read

to the court. *Visions of Ecstasy* depicts the erotic visions of St Teresa of Avila, a 16th-century Carmelite nun. One scene shows her having an erotic fantasy with another woman, who represents her alter ego. It cuts to shots of her lying on Christ, who is still nailed to the cross.

Mr Wingrove, an agnostic, said he did not intend to be blasphemous. "The film was inspired by Bernini's statue *The Ecstasy of St Teresa* in Rome, which is very erotic. It is also meant to explore the darker side of eroticism."

The Home Office said that it would vigorously defend the case. "We have given the BBFC the powers to classify films and they found it to be blasphemous," a spokeswoman said.

The crime of blasphemy and blasphemous libel has been a common-law offence for three

centuries, but its origins can be traced back to the ecclesiastical courts of the Middle Ages. Under the law, "every publication is said to be blasphemous, which contains any contemptuous, reviling, scurrilous or ludicrous matter relating to God, Jesus Christ or the Bible, or the formularies of the Church of England..." Muslim leaders have urged the law to be extended to other faiths.

France, Austria, Sweden, Denmark and Norway have abolished blasphemy laws. There have been only two successful prosecutions for blasphemy in Britain this century. The last was in 1977, when *Gay News* was prosecuted for printing a poem using homosexual imagery in relation to God. In 1921 a Mr J. Gort was sentenced to nine months' prison for publishing a pamphlet entitled *Rib Ticklers or Questions for Parsons*.

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Harman says Tories "dragged their feet" before taking steps to protect public health

Labour accuses ministers of repeated failure to act

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE Government's reckless disregard for public health and obsession with deregulation was the cause of the "mad cow" crisis, Labour said yesterday.

In furious exchanges after two ministerial statements in the Commons on BSE, Harriet Harman, the Shadow Health Secretary, told MPs that public confidence in the beef industry had collapsed and accused ministers of acting too slowly.

Ms Harman said that the problem was rooted in the Government's repeated failure to take effective action to protect food.

Ms Harman was in turn accused by Tory MPs of exploiting the crisis to make political points. When Tony Marlow (C, Northampton North) referred to Ms Harman as "a stupid cow" he was ordered by the Speaker to withdraw the remark.

In response to the first

DEBATE

statement by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, Ms Harman said the Government had "dragged their feet" in the late 1980s before making BSE notifiable, banning animal protein and bovine offal, and requiring compulsory slaughter and compensation. "Instead, deregulation dogma fuelled by complacency has caused a nightmare scenario for consumers and farmers alike."

She demanded rigorous enforcement of current rules and urged the Government to publish full information for the public on the risk of eating beef compared with other meats. She also called on ministers to advise schools to be "better safe than sorry" and take beef off school dinners for at least nine months.

Ms Harman told Mr Dorrell: "Don't you under-

stand, you still have not done enough to restore the confidence of the British consumer in British beef. They will continue to buy beef, but it will not be ours."

She added: "This crisis has shown that the Government can no longer govern because people do not trust them. How can this Government restore public confidence, when the public has no confidence in this Government?"

In reply, Mr Dorrell angrily told Ms Harman: "I think the country listening to you will find it deeply offensive that you have opened up a wide chasm between the principles you say inform your policy and the ferreting around for party political advantage that has manifested itself in both of your interventions on this subject."

He challenged Ms Harman to say what action she would take. There was no evidence of the Government delaying ac-

tion and said all the relevant information had been published.

After a statement by Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, Tory MPs stepped up their attack on Labour. James Coughman (C, Gillingham) urged Mr Hogg to "ignore the hysterical politicking from the other side of the Chamber, and indeed the mass whipped-up scare-mongering of the media over the weekend."

Tim Yeo (C, Suffolk S), a former Tory minister, said if the beef industry collapsed, voters in rural areas would blame Labour's "hysterical demands".

Paul Marland (C, Gloucestershire W), chairman of the Tory backbench agriculture committee, said MPs were at the debate because they cared about public health. "It is quite nauseating that Opposition MPs should try to claim this as their own public do-



Stephen Dorrell's statement brought an angry response from Harriet Harman

main when we are all here for that very reason," he said. He urged Mr Hogg to look at how many cases of BSE existed in other European Union countries and whether they were trying to pass them off as other diseases. "I get the feeling that our EU partners are using this present difficulty as an opportunity to do

down our industry for the betterment of their own," he said.

For the Liberal Democrats, Paul Tyler (Cornwall N) cautioned against slaughtering British herds, only to risk bringing in BSE infected beef from the Continent. To Tory cheers, he said: "In those circumstances, it is equally

absurd for the burger giants to be importing beef which is not regulated and inspected to the same high standards we have in this country."

Mr Hogg replied: "On logic and on the scientific evidence, I agree with you that it isn't necessary for anybody to withdraw from eating British beef or from using it."

Farmers appalled by ban

REACTION

By MICHAEL HORNSBY

FARMERS said they were "horrified" yesterday by the European Union's decision to impose a ban on imports of British beef. A trade worth about £450 million a year will be wiped out.

"We are deeply disappointed the EU has taken this action," a spokesman said. "There is no justification for it at all."

The news came as farmers voiced mixed reactions to the Government's decision yesterday not to have an immediate cull of older animals.

Dairy farmers, who would have been worst affected, expressed relief. But some beef farmers said they feared that the Government's inaction would cause consumer confidence in beef to fall further. They feel aggrieved that they have been hit by falling beef sales when the vast majority of BSE cases have been in dairy herds.

Britain isolated in bid to sway EU partners

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS

BRITISH officials failed yesterday to dissuade European Union colleagues from imposing an EU-wide ban on British beef as the Brussels Commission endorsed bans by individual member states.

Keith Meldrum, Britain's Chief Veterinary Officer, put London's case at a session of the EU's standing veterinary committee, which was under heavy pressure from member states to recommend an all-out ban on British beef and its by-products from all 14 other member states. "I am hopeful there will be a continuation of trade," Mr Meldrum said.

Mr Meldrum found himself alone against the 14 other member states when the committee reviewed proposals for action. All Britain's partners said they wanted an immediate ban on all British beef imports until the health picture was clarified, according to officials attending the close-door meeting. They also wanted Britain to present an urgent plan on how it intended to eradicate BSE disease from its cattle.

The majority view was put by Stan Van Der Meys, the Dutch official at the meeting. "We are looking for a ban on imports of British beef and beef products until it's absolutely clear on which farms BSE has occurred," he said.

Franz Fischler, the EU Farm Commissioner, put a package of proposals to the committee as a prelude to a vote on action.

A British official said there was embarrassment when Britain pressed the EU officials for their scientific reasoning. "They had no real answers to our questions on this. They couldn't tell us why this was the way to go."

Amid widespread confusion over the scope for Commission action, officials said yesterday they were unsure whether Brussels had the authority to order the slaughter of British cattle, even if that was decided by Herr Fischler.

Ministers from France, Germany and other states made clear they would brook

nothing less than radical action to prevent the possible spread of disease and a collapse of confidence in Europe's beef industry. As the animal experts met, several foreign ministers attending a separate conference said it was up to the Commission to show Europe the way.

Britain's handling of the crisis, already criticised across the Continent, came under fire from the Commission. "It might have helped if we had been given a little forewarning," Herr Fischler's spokesman said.

The Commission made its anger known in a letter to Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister. A spokesman voiced amazement that Mr Hogg had given no word of the Government's impending announcement when farm ministers had met in Brussels early last week. The letter questioned the Government's wisdom in making an announcement that risked creating a public scare while it seemed to contain no new evidence linking BSE to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.

Consumer confidence was at the centre of the Commission's concerns, officials said. Emma Bonino, the Consumer Affairs Commissioner, said she was calling a meeting of scientists to give "basic guidelines" to restore confidence.

The Commission acknowledged that the financial implications of the BSE scare were vast and hard to quantify. Only a few million pounds remained in the kitty of the Common Agriculture Policy for compensating farmers for diseased animals. An emergency fund would have to be set up, but it was not yet clear how it could be managed, officials said. Some estimates put the potential cost at billions of pounds.

The CAP is equipped to intervene to buy in beef once the price falls below 60 per cent of the intervention level for a period of two weeks. Prices this week have plunged well below that figure, but officials were hoping it could be restored.

Herd slaughtered after disease found

FRANCE

A HERD of 151 cattle was slaughtered by French health authorities yesterday after one was found to be infected with "mad cow" disease.

At the same time, customs officials in Calais intercepted four lorries allegedly carrying British beef in violation of the French import ban. The lorries, including an Irish truck carrying 19 tonnes of frozen beef liver, were searched after arriving by ferry and returned to Britain.

In one truck, eight cartons of British beef were "hidden" in a mixed shipment containing cheese and lamb, customs officials said. The infected cow was found last month on a farm at Pommerehne-Vicomte in the Cotes-d'Armor region of Brittany, one of three cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy identified in France this year.

A smaller herd containing

an infected cow at a farm near Callac in Brittany will be destroyed shortly, the Agriculture Ministry said. On March 11, a herd of 80 cattle was slaughtered in the Finistere region of Brittany after another case of BSE was identified.

According to official figures, 16 cases of mad cow disease have been identified in France since 1991, ten of them in Brittany, and officials say that in each case the infection can be traced to contaminated British cattle feed.

Austria is banning the import of Swiss beef and beef products from today to protect consumers from "mad cow" disease, the Health Ministry announced. Switzerland has reported 205 cases since it started keeping track of the disease in the late 1980s.

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BY ADAM SMITH

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Should farmers be given government pay-out over BSE scare if they ignored the rules?

**BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT**

Last Thursday's installment also included a last-minute script change.

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

'If restr

Ian Gardiner, director of policy at the National Farmers' Union, said: "In any walk of life you get some people who ignore the regulations. Many farmers may simply have taken some time to realise what the regulations were. Farmers are notorious for taking no notice of letters and

Mr Gardiner said: "I totally reject the suggestion that farmers were the authors of their own misfortune. Until 1988 the feed they used was pronounced safe by scientists and the Government. Very few



Institute. "I see no case at all for subsidising farmers, but if millions of healthy animals were to be slaughtered for no reason other than appeasing public hysteria, it is not unreasonable that the electorate at large should carry the can financially." It is possible that

Britain could have exported BSE to the Continent in infected meat and bonemeal. France has reported 13 cases of BSE and Switzerland 206. Many people think France may have had more cases than it admits.

Leading article, page 19

The committee has carefully considered whether a quantitative risk assessment can provide an estimate of the absolute risk in relation to BSE. In its judgment a precise measure is impossible because of a number of interacting

- ☐ the magnitude of the species barrier between cattle and man;
- ☐ lack of data on levels of infectivity in a range of important cattle tissues which are below the level of detectability by current assays;
- ☐ the uneven distribution of infectivity in any tissue;
- ☐ the time course for the appearance of infectivity over the duration of the incubation period;

Age-related susceptibility
SEAC has been asked to give further advice on the risk to children. It first considered whether susceptibility is likely to be age-related. It had a wide

The younger generation and

The committee asked Government to ensure that the relevant authorities have the necessary statutory authority to enforce fully these recommendations and the existing

The committee therefore advise the Government:

a) To ensure that all the restrictions previously recommended, those of March 20, 1996 and in this document, are fully implemented and sustained. If this is ensured, any BSE-related risk from eating any beef or beef products is likely to be extremely small.

Meat and bone meal
The committee confirmed its previous advice that the use of mammalian meat and bone meal should be prohibited in any circumstances where there might be a risk of the material being fed to or ingested by ruminants. In particu-

The committee does not believe that additional measures are justified at this stage, but the situation needs to be kept under careful review so that additional significant information can be taken into account as soon as it becomes available.



By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

Given this ignorance, the committee has been forced to fall back on first principles in assessing risk. In general, says Dr John Wilson, a consultant neurologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London — and not a member of the group — infants are not at greater risk of contracting brain infections than adults.

In encephalitis, for example, people may be more susceptible, exactly the possibility the committee has just dismissed. They square this is by pointing out that if the infections were acquired between 1982 and 1989 — as they assume — then some of the victims were children and some were young adults at the time. On this basis, children *per se* are not at greater risk.

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[illegible]

NONE of Hong Kong democrats will be able to sit on the Legislative Council that China appoint to replace present whitts of one, a Peking official announced yesterday.

The "provisional" legislature will be selected this year or early next and will go into session immediately. Proposals and abolishing laws of the current body are sitting for at least six months of rule, therefore Hong Kong will have no legislative council at all with each other.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong has voted outright in an announcement by the British-Waiting Association, the director of the New York News Agency, with China, a de facto ally in Hong Kong. Mr. also on the 14th Preparatory Committee made up of Hong and mainland PRC appointees, which is setting up plans for Hong Kong's post-1997 transition. Deming also excluded from the committee. The committee has declared two days of the existing mainland Legislative Council will be wound up on 1997 - not in 1995. Patten, the colony's first governor, has been error denounced for decision as a "blatant Hong Kong" disguise for foreign interests, who were a number of votes in the year's successful off his successor.

Martin Lee, a critic of PRC chairman a leading UK newspaper that he might the decision in the as a violation of the British agreement with the Basic Law, the mini-situation.

But he added:
those excluded should be
proud that they
not be serving in
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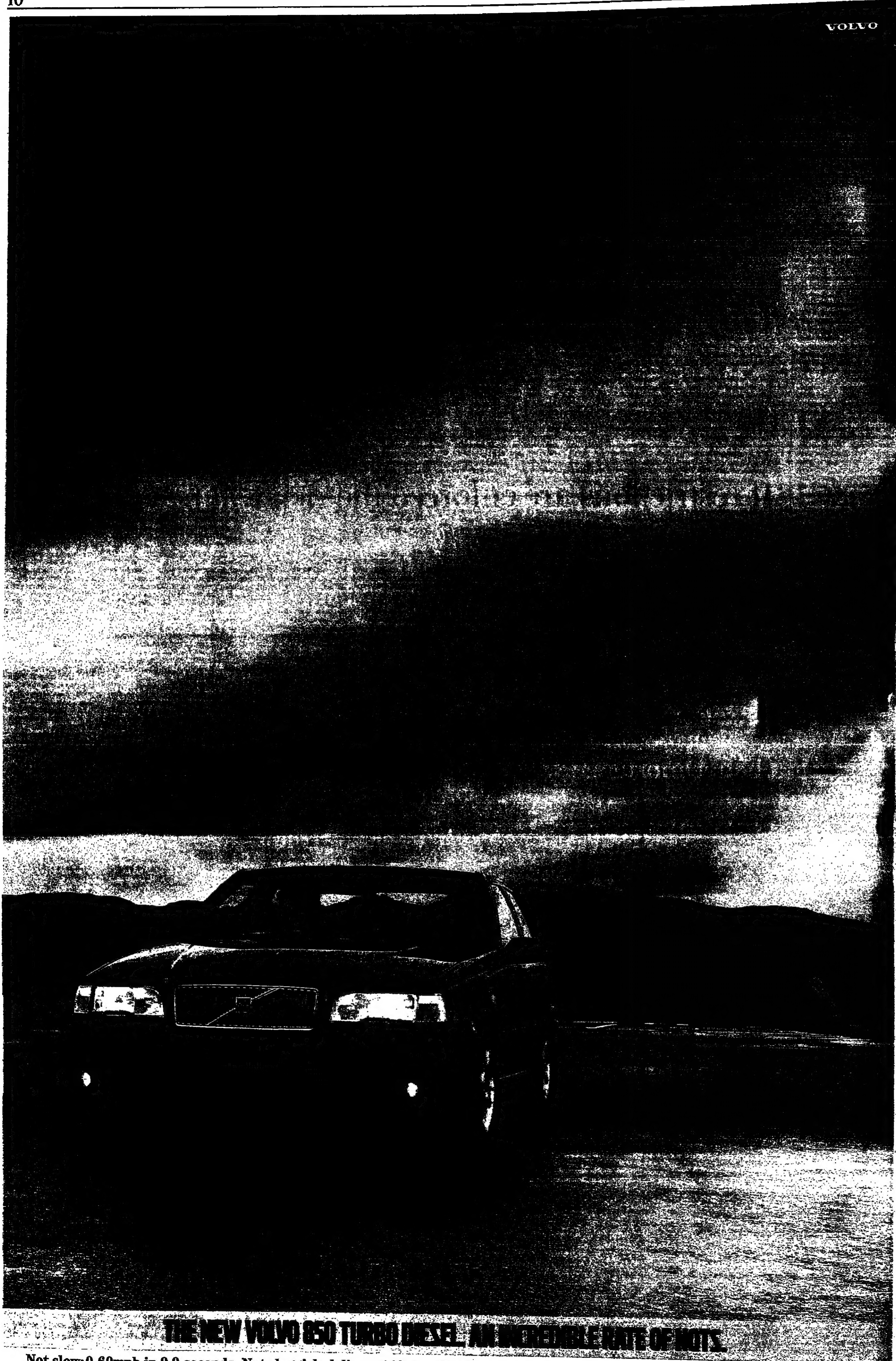
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Democrat leaders frozen out by China

By Jonathan Mirsky

NONE of Hong Kong's democrats will be allowed to sit on the Legislative Council that China will appoint to replace the present wholly elected one, a Peking official announced yesterday.

The "provisional" legislature will be selected late this year or early in 1997 and will go into session immediately, proposing and abolishing laws while the current body is still sitting. For at least the last six months of colonial rule, therefore, Hong Kong will have two Legislative Councils at constant odds with each other.

Hong Kong democrats have voiced outrage at the announcement by Lee Wai-ting, assistant director of the New China News Agency, which is China's de facto embassy in Hong Kong. Mr Lee is also on the 150-member Preparatory Committee, made up of Hong Kong and mainland Peking appointees, which is drawing up plans for Hong Kong's post-1997 administration. Democrats were also excluded from that.

The committee formally declared two days ago that the existing 60-member Legislative Council would be wound up on July 1, 1997 — two years short of its statutory term. Chris Patten, the colony's Governor, denounced that decision as a "black day for Hong Kong" and a disguise for keeping democrats, who won the largest number of votes in last year's council elections, off its successor.

Martin Lee, the Democratic Party chairman and a leading QC, said yesterday that he might contest the decision in the courts as a violation of past Sino-British agreements and of the Basic Law — Peking's mini-constitution for post-1997.

But he added that "all those excluded should feel proud" that they would not be serving on a puppet body.

Peking ends military manoeuvres off Taiwan

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

CHINA announced last night that its war games were over, temporarily halting moves to intimidate Taiwan, which completed a historic presidential election at the weekend.

The action pushed the issues dividing China and Taiwan into the political rather than the military arena. Peking's

land, sea and air exercises last week in the northwest corner of the Taiwan Strait were the last of a series that began last year. But military observers in the Chinese capital said the latest war games never quite reached the scale of the earlier ones, either because of financial constraints or even political infighting in the Chinese Communist Party hierarchy.

The United States, which had dispatched two naval battlegroups to the area to counter China's intimidation of Taiwan, acted yesterday to ease tensions by signalling their imminent pullout. The USS Independence will return to her base in Japan within a few days, said a Pentagon official in Washington, while the USS Nimitz will conduct routine operations around

Taiwan for another week and then sail for America.

It is unusual for Washington to announce such fleet movements in advance and indicates a willingness to collaborate in ending the standoff with China.

Peking also appeared yesterday to be cooling its rhetoric against Taiwan, with state-controlled newspapers toning down the vitriolic attacks on Lee Teng-hui, the Taiwanese President and leader of the ruling Kuomintang (Nationalist) Party who won the election with 54 per cent of the vote.

Nevertheless, in a cautious analysis of the result, the Chinese media claimed victory for Peking's uncompromising stance against what it perceives as Taiwan's push for independence. The official Xinhua news agency said: "During the election, Lee Teng-hui had to declare time and again that he will not seek China's reunification, that he will not pursue Taiwan independence, and that after winning the election he will try to improve cross-strait relations." However, one analyst in Peking said that "in effect, China is putting the best face on things".

The Xinhua commentary



Chinese helicopters shown in recent military exercises in a photograph released yesterday by the semi-official China News Service agency

ignored voter surveys in Taipei, the Taiwanese capital, which indicated that China's military aggression had boosted support for Mr Lee. Peking, which accuses him of being a "splinterist", was infuriated when he undertook a trip to Cornell University, his American alma mater, last year and angry at the Clinton White House for enabling the visit. The Communist leaders

feared that President Lee was raising Taiwan's international profile to a degree that they regarded as unacceptable.

Although two Taiwanese candidates, Lin Yang-kang and Chen Li-an, who ran on an anti-independence ticket, only managed to finish third and fourth in the four-man race, Xinhua took comfort that their combined result of 24.8 per cent was greater than the

21 per cent secured by Peng Ming-min, the staunchest pro-independence candidate.

Foreign diplomats in Peking do not rule out the possibility of the military holding more war games soon, possibly along areas of its coast where the topography resembles that of Taiwan's.

For the moment, however, they believe that the worst may be over, and that China

and Taiwan will resume low-level, semi-official dialogue, suspended last year in response to Mr Lee's foreign diplomatic push for recognition of Taiwan. An imminent summit is ruled out because of reservations on both sides.

China continues to maintain that, if Taiwan accepts the principle of eventual reunification, "relations could be eased and we could move on to

discuss other things", Shen Guofang, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, said at the weekend. For the present, that is as far as the apparent easing in tensions between the two may reach.

In his regular briefing to journalists today, Mr Shen outlined Peking's strategy in the post-election era. Few observers in the capital forecast an easy road ahead.

Taipei baits Communists with offer of unity in four years

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN TAIPEI



Lee seeks recognition

IF PEKING opts for democracy, Taiwan maintains that it is prepared to offer the ultimate goal of reunification with the mainland.

The latest Taiwanese official to state this tenet, which the Communist Chinese leadership will find hard to accept, is James Soong, elected Governor of Taiwan last year. He said yesterday: "We want to tell the Communist Party that China will reunify very soon. Four years from now we can unify. As long as China can make up its mind four years from now to elect the president of all China with all the Chinese in

Taiwan — that will be the time of the real reunification of China."

Although Mr Soong, a close ally of President Lee Teng-hui, was reiterating Taipei's long-held view that China can reunify only under a democratic system, it marked the first time that a date had been officially mooted.

But Taiwanese officials know full well that China has made it clear since the brutal crushing of pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square in 1989 that it does not regard Western-style democracy as an option. For Taiwan also, there

are inherent problems regarding the question of reunification. Taiwanese voters, who overwhelmingly backed pro-independence candidates in Saturday's election, will not accept such a timetable as set out by Mr Soong.

The electorate is wary of getting too close to the mainland, especially after the events of the last weeks when Chinese missiles crashed into the seas off Taiwan's shores and the People's Liberation Army staged mock invasions.

What the majority of Taiwanese seek is peaceful co-existence. Post-election opinion polls yesterday

showed that almost a third of the respondents back moves towards peace and bilateral agreements governing shipping, trade and easier communications.

They would like to see Taiwan taking its place at international meetings and sports events. In return, they are prepared to forgo United Nations recognition — which President Lee is allegedly trying to secure for a \$1 billion (£653 million) contribution. The UN is unlikely to readmit Taiwan since it recognises mainland China.

The Taiwanese would also want their leader to be able to make high-profile visits abroad — like the trip President Lee made to his American

alma mater last year, which triggered the present crisis, without affronting mainland China or any other country.

Last week Lien Chan, then Taiwanese Prime Minister, who is now Mr Lee's Vice-President, told journalists that "a peace agreement" might be concluded between the two sides. But he refused to divulge what such an agreement might include.

For the present, it is difficult to imagine Peking's leaders, who must be smarting from the failure of their attempt to intimidate Taiwan's voters into rejecting Mr Lee, taking part in a peace conference with Taiwan at which they demanded anything less than a show of fealty.

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Call by Bossi for breakaway state enrages Italians

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

WITH a month to go before the Italian election, Umberto Bossi, the fiery leader of the Northern League, yesterday caused uproar by declaring his aim was a separate state carved out of northern Italy to be called "Padania".

The move was condemned by Left and Right, and caused a breach with his chief lieutenant, Irene Pivetti, the Speaker of parliament.

"A nation is born," Signor Bossi declared at a rally in Pontida, near Milan, to roars of approval from 25,000 followers, waving the medieval standards of Piedmont, Tuscany and Lombardy. Until now, he has always been ambiguous about whether he wants outright secession or only a form of regional autonomy. From humble beginnings in the

1980s, Signor Bossi has built skillfully on northern resentment of rule from Rome and union with the poorer South, transforming the League from a marginal protest force to a national movement with 76 seats in parliament.

His party was a key partner in the 1994 centre-right coalition led by Silvio Berlusconi, whom it brought down by withdrawing.

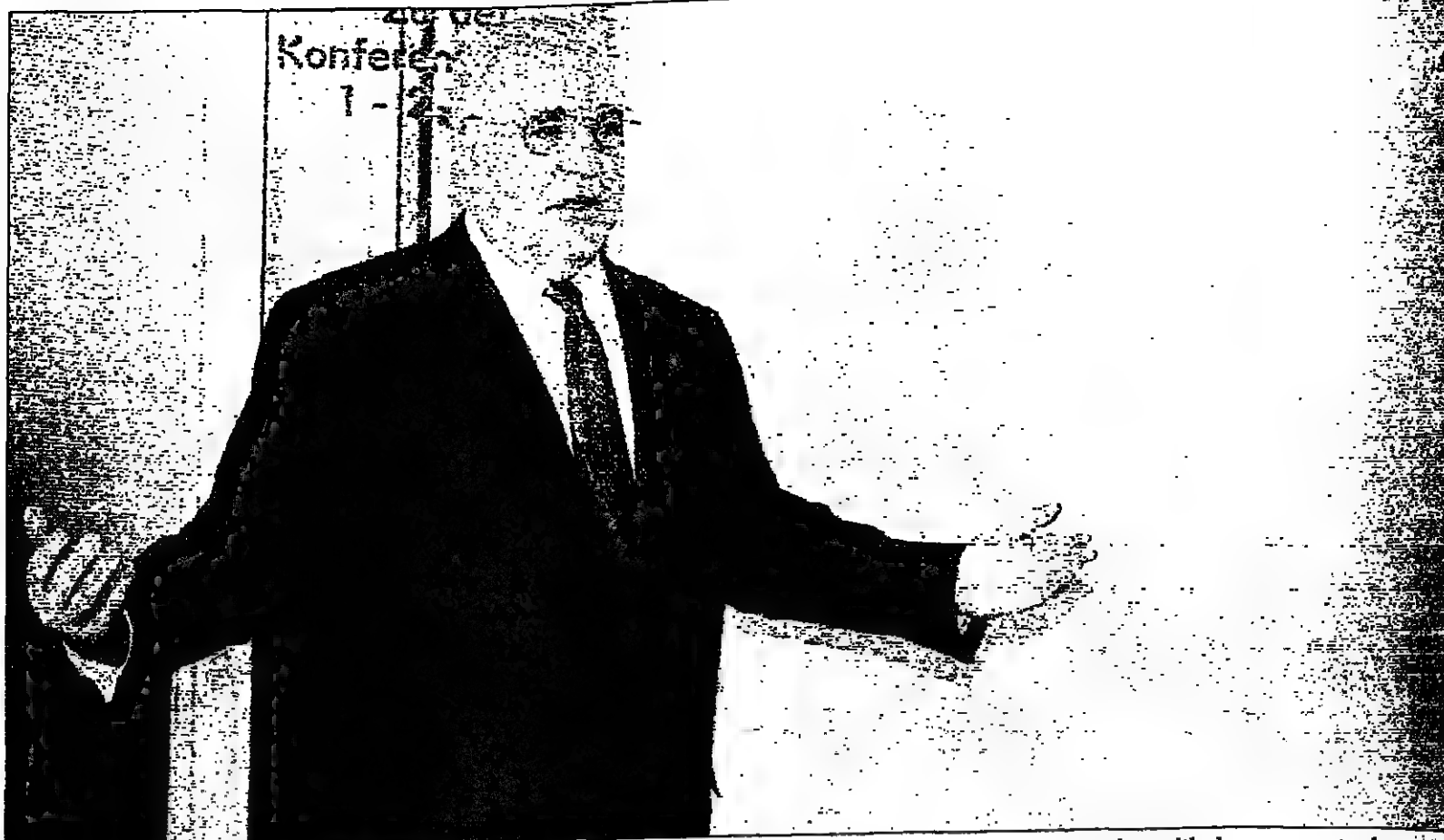
However, Signora Pivetti said Signor Bossi's proposal for a separate state was a violation of Italy's federal constitution. She left the platform at Pontida, later claiming she had visited the cooks preparing food for the rally. Signor Bossi remarked angrily that anyone who did not wish to join him was "welcome to leave", to which she retorted

that Signor Bossi, known for his crude, demagogic style, was becoming more authoritarian than ever. Padania, the ancient Italian term for the Po valley, would contain the most powerful industries of Italy, its best agricultural land, almost all its financial wealth and its greatest cities: Venice, the proposed capital, Turin, Milan, Bologna and Genoa.

The Northern League already holds a regular "parliament" in Mantua, and is stoking a tax revolt against Rome. Romano Prodi and Signor Berlusconi, the mainstream leaders of Left and Right, yesterday acknowledged growing protests over high taxation by holding a televised debate on fiscal policy to coincide with widespread protests by shopkeepers. Shutters came down on shops for two hours yesterday in the latest show of resentment.

However, the chances of Padania joining the other new-born nations of Europe are slim. *La Stampa* said Signor Bossi had hardened his secessionist line to give his movement fresh electoral momentum. The League has refused to make electoral pacts, hoping to bargain its way into the next coalition, but polls suggest that its support has fallen.

The League is increasingly competing on its home ground with the neo-Fascist Alleanza Nazionale, led by the shrewd and polished Gianfranco Fini, who is expected to gain votes next month. Many people in the North, *La Repubblica* said, "say they want secession, but will actually vote for Fini".



Helmut Kohl, who continues to cast a large shadow over German politics, in expansive mood at a meeting with the press yesterday

Poll wins put spring in Kohl's step

The Free Democrats' unexpectedly good showing in local elections may encourage them to believe that now is the time to desert the coalition with the Christian Democrats, Roger Boyes writes

HELMUT KOHL was beaming again yesterday. The irritability of the past month which has sent his aides scurrying for cover, seems to have been banished by the Christian Democrats' gains at the weekend's regional elections.

For the Christian Democrats to pass a stern mid-term test in three of Germany's most difficult regional states was certainly cause for celebration. To send the Social Democrats reeling in the middle of an economic slowdown, with unemployment edging fast towards a new postwar record of 4.5 million — that was a real achievement for the Chancellery.

And surely there could be no greater contribution to a stable future than the strong performance of the Free Democrats. Herr Kohl's junior partners, whose stamina has been ebbing by the

day, Herr Kohl's party executive was busily ticking off other positive aspects, the thrashing of the Eurosceptical Social Democrats in Baden-Württemberg, for example.

And yet there are whispers of doubt. First, Germany's political system ensures that governments are almost always changed in mid-term. That means now or, conceivably, in 2000 after winning the 1998 election.

The arguments for a switch now have, if anything, been fortified by

Sunday's regional elections. For some time the Free Democrats have been losing confidence and direction, the talk of the past six months has been of a grand Social Democrat-Christian Democrat coalition in Bonn, predicated on the collapse of the Free Democrats.

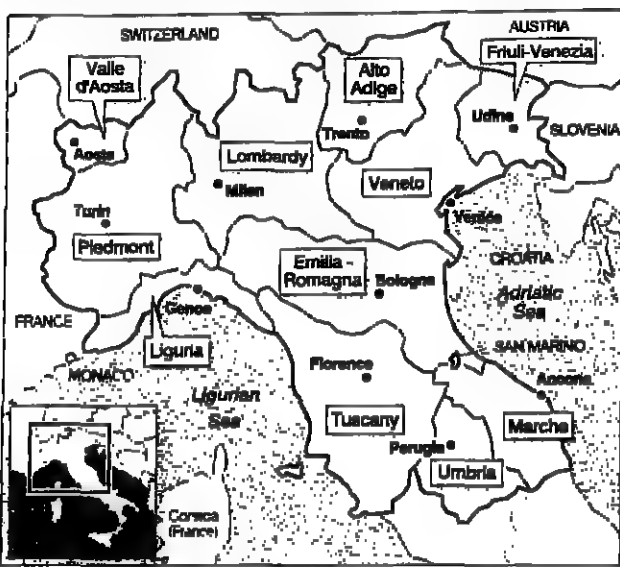
From this week, however, the Free Democrats have bargaining power. The small party could, it is being argued, gain much from dissolving the alliance with Herr Kohl and

making common cause with the Social Democrats.

It is not difficult to see how the divorce from the Chancellor could come. Herr Kohl has already announced that there will be "massive spending cuts" and unpopular tax increases. The Free Democrats, in so far as they stand for anything, are militantly against increasing the personal tax burden on Germans.

Yesterday, Herr Kohl seemed to be bursting with strength. But in coalition politics there is always an open question as to whether a bottle is full, or half empty. There are those in Bonn who view Herr Kohl's Government as more than half empty and at home it has reached the limits of its reforming zeal.

Kohl's future, page 18



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Chirac argues for European 'social model'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

PRESIDENT CHIRAC yesterday insisted that France was on track for economic and monetary union and called for a new "European social model" to harmonise labour and welfare laws within the Union.

"In Paris, as in Bonn, we are convinced that the single currency will be achieved. We will be on time for our rendezvous with monetary Europe," M Chirac wrote in *Liberation* yesterday, five days before the inter-governmental conference (IGC) begins in Turin. In

France announced yesterday that its borders with Germany and Spain would be opened in line with the Schengen accord (Ben Macintyre writes). But as the row between Paris and The Hague over "tax" Dutch drugs policy reached new intensity, France said it would retain controls on Benelux frontiers.

a swipe at British, Spanish and Italian businesses that have taken advantage of devaluations against the franc. M Chirac also said that a compulsory exchange rate system should be set up between the euro and the currencies of countries unable to join the single currency in 1999.

"France will present proposals to punish those breaking the necessary common discipline," he wrote.

The French President's call for a "genuine European social model" will not sit well

with the British Government, which remains strongly opposed to setting out social rights under the EU.

"This project rests on a renovated European architecture, monetary union and a far stronger endorsement of the public's social and cultural aspirations," M Chirac wrote. In the run-up to the IGC, the President has come under increasing pressure to define his European views, both from opposition Socialists and within the ruling coalition.

M Chirac's article returned to some of his election campaign themes by placing renewed emphasis on job creation and the need to address social issues in order to build a "Europe that reassures and protects".

The proposals for a "European social model" came days after Philippe Seguin, the parliamentary Speaker, accused the Government of reneging on campaign pledges to make jobs a priority. M Seguin said that, with unemployment at 11.5 per cent, it was "regrettable" that "employment is not the primary objective of public policy".

Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, has said that a paper outlining proposals on unemployment, immigration and labour relations in Europe would be drawn up this week to be presented at the IGC.

While firmly nailing his colours to the monetary union mast, in other respects M Chirac's article steered a careful middle course between the pro-European and Eurosceptic wings of his party.



Giscard: forced to give way to younger rivals

Giscard to resign as party chief

BY BEN MACINTYRE

FRANCE'S only surviving former President, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, 70, appeared to be heading grudgingly towards political retirement yesterday, squeezed out by ambitious younger rivals.

After months of equivocation, he was expected to announce last night that he would not seek re-election as head of the Union for French Democracy (UDF), the umbrella group comprising five centre-right parties that he founded 18 years ago.

The man who led France between 1974 and 1981 delayed announcing whether he would seek another term until the last moment. But in recent years his popularity has dwindled and two strong candidates, the former Cabinet ministers François Léotard and Alain Madelin, have thrown their hats in the ring.

The party elects a new leader this Sunday in Lyons and M Léotard is widely expected to win.

Rome urges EU to allow flexibility and scrap red tape

FROM ROSEMARY RIGTER IN VENICE

THE British Government's vision of a more flexible multi-dimensional union will have backing at Turin from an unexpected quarter on Saturday: the Italian presidency.

The first clear indications of the Italian Government's agenda for the inter-governmental conference were set out at an Anglo-Italian seminar in Venice at the weekend by Boris Biancheri-Chiappori, a former Ambassador to Britain who now heads the Italian Foreign Office.

Governments, he said, must be prepared "to conceive a Europe that is different from the one we have been living with", one in which diversity was preserved and red tape kept under far stricter control. Governments should be free, within the general objective of greater European integration, to choose how closely they wanted to co-operate in many areas of policy.

Enlargement of the EU, to which Signor Biancheri gave Italy's unequivocal support, was "unthinkable at the speed required unless we accept differentiation", he said. Equally, it should be possible "for two or more governments to forge particularly close links in particular areas", as they had with the Schengen accord. There was no reason to see such moves as a threat to the cohesion of the Union.

Each country should be free to decide if, how, and when to move forward — whether this was in foreign policy, defence, or social policy. Monetary union set a precedent that could be extended. This would enable early enlargement

without putting a brake on countries that wanted to move faster.

Italy's goal for the conference, he said, was to equip Europe for diversity through simplifying and rationalising its laws and procedures. The EU should be more selective about embarking on new policies and directives, and it should treat the decisions which it did take more seriously. Italy hoped that the conference, which Signor Biancheri expected to last about 18 months, would strip down and simplify the Maastricht treaty, and review both the size and the rules on representative government governing the European Commission.

Significantly, his speech made no reference to the European Parliament, whose powers Germany wishes to see enlarged, and although he did give Italian support to extensions of qualified majority voting, he said that decisions in foreign policy could only be binding on countries that agreed.

Signor Biancheri's speech, which has the official backing of the Italian Government, is a marked departure from the orthodox Italian position. *Corriere della Sera* described it as "a cold shower on the dream of a federal Europe".

In an indirect rebuff to German references to an "inner core" of European states, Signor Biancheri said that it was pointless and damaging to rank countries in A and B categories; not every country would be in the vanguard on everything, and Italy should learn to live with this.

Seconds out for summer

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

EVEN changing clocks to summer time has become a matter of conflict in the Middle East, not only between Jews and Arabs, but even between Jews themselves.

The Palestinian Authority, which controls large areas of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, waited a week after the Israeli Government moved its clocks forward one hour before doing the same.

The intervening period was one of farcical confusion with Palestinian, Israeli and international representatives often arriving for meetings at different times.

A new group, calling itself Palestinians in the Defence of Arab Jerusalem, sent an angry letter to Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, charging United Nations organisations working in east Jerusalem — territory annexed by Israel after the 1967 war — with changing their clocks to Israeli summer time.

"Such an act is considered a political statement on the status of east Jerusalem," the letter said.

Not to be outdone in the use of the clock as a political weapon, some ultra-Orthodox Jewish groups, whose members do not recognise the legitimacy of the Zionist state, also refused to advance the hour towards summer time at the same time as the rest of Israel.

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ARTS 33-35

Who will foot the bill for British dance's brighter future?



LAW 37-39

Michael Howard's plans for tougher jail sentencing



SPORT 44-48

Illingworth clears way for young team manager

CONTRACTS ON THE LUNCH MENU
Small business 30

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY MARCH 26 1996

Insurer agrees £800m deal

Halifax bid wins Clerical Medical

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

THE Halifax, Britain's biggest building society, has emerged as victor in the auction for Clerical Medical with a deal that values the life assurance mutual at £800 million.

At least 600,000 with-profits policyholders will receive a special bonus that will increase the ultimate value of their policies. For a typical £30,000 with-profit endowment policy that has been in force for 15 years this special bonus will be £2,172.

The bonus will be paid to those who had with-profit policies in force at midnight on March 22, 1996 and which remain in force at midnight on December 31, 1996.

Halifax, which is financing the deal from cash resources, is making a £730 million contribution to the Clerical Medical's with-profit fund and injecting £70 million as shareholders' capital. Of the £730 million, £111 million will

make up the special bonus and £160 million will be allocated to increase the ultimate value of the policies when they mature.

The deal came as a surprise to City observers as NatWest had been widely seen as front-runner. However, analysts said that given Halifax's late entry into life insurance, the deal made sense.

Clerical Medical put itself up for sale last year after a strategic review. Robert Walther, the chief executive, said that "we were concerned that there might come a point in the future where we might become constrained by our lack of capital". He said Clerical Medical and its adviser, Schroders, highlighted a need to invest more freely in equities, which have a greater return than gilts. However, to do so requires a larger solvency ratio. It also recognised the need for additional working capital and the need to demon-

strate its strength to "commentators and independent financial advisers".

Mr Walther said the insurer evaluated 40 potential partners. It weeded the number down and examined "a limited number", believed to be six, of indicative bids. These included NatWest and Abbey National. He said Halifax offered the highest price and the best fit for Clerical Medical.

For Halifax the deal is seen as a move to diversify earnings away from mortgages and to position itself as a broadly based financial services provider. It follows hard on the heels of its merger last year with the Leeds, but will be completed before next spring's stock market bonanza. Jon Foulds, chairman of Halifax, said the acquisition of Clerical Medical "will enhance earnings and therefore the value of shares to be distributed to members when we become a plc." He said Halifax does not distribute through the independent financial adviser market "and this gap will be filled by the acquisition of Clerical Medical".

Clerical Medical posted letters to its policyholders yesterday. Details of the deal will be spelled out in a circular in May. An extraordinary meeting will be held in June. A High Court hearing to approve the plans is likely in October and completion is expected on December 31.

The insurer has had difficulty identifying how many of its policyholders are eligible to vote and will therefore benefit from the special bonus. It sent out 625,000 letters yesterday, but estimated that it has 600,000 with-profits policies and up to 100,000 more that have a with-profits element should also benefit. That leaves an estimated 300,000 with non-profits policies who will not receive a bonus.

The Clerical Medical brand name will remain and, along with Halifax Financial Services, the company will be renamed Clerical Medical Investment Group. The management team will remain in place. Mr Walther said there will be no job losses as a result of the takeover, but added that the company was in the middle of a review of its businesses which might result in cuts.

Pennington, page 27

Bonus bonanza for policyholders

By Marianne Curphey

CLERICAL Medical's with-profits savers could receive additional bonuses up to £4,000 during the life of their policy. Of the £800 million which the Halifax is paying to acquire the investment group, £111 million will be put towards a special reversionary bonus. Three equal extra bonus payments will be paid to with-profits policyholders at the end of December 1997, 1998 and 1999.

A further £160 million will be used to pay a terminal bonus when the policy matures: the sum for each policyholder could be as much, or more, than the special reversionary bonus, but will depend on the size and maturity of the policy.

Clerical Medical has £14 billion of assets under management. The Halifax deal increases Clerical Medical's free assets for investment from £723 million to £1.2 billion.

Clerical Medical does not have any "orphan" funds, amounts in a with-profits life

funds beyond what is needed to meet the reasonable expectations of policyholders, because it is a mutual whose assets are wholly owned by its policyholders.

Clerical Medical policyholders are not the first to benefit from the restructuring of the life industry. Legal & General's 1.4 million with-profits policyholders will enjoy a £160 million special bonus when funds are shared. Six million Prudential policyholders may benefit from a stake of the Pru's "orphan" funds, estimated at between £500 million and £5 billion, which might give them an extra £300 each.

Britannic and Refuge are already discussing similar action. Provident Mutual policyholders received a payout when their fund was acquired by General Accident, and both Royal Insurance and Commercial Union are looking at redistributing their surplus funds.



Jon Foulds of the Halifax, left, with Michael Hamilton, chairman of Clerical Medical



Sir Colin Marshall, chairman, and Philip Cushing, new chief executive, yesterday

Inchcape head goes as profit dives 92%

By Alasdair Murray
CHARLES MACKAY resigned as chief executive of Inchcape yesterday after the company revealed a 92 per cent drop in full-year profits and cut its dividend by a third.

The struggling motor car distribution and international trading company also announced it would float or demerge Bain Hogg, its insurance subsidiary, and sell-off its testing division before the end of the year, raising around £500 million.

Mr Mackay is replaced by Philip Cushing, who was previously managing director. Mr Mackay, who will serve as deputy chairman until June, is expected to receive a pay-off in the region of £800,000.

Sir Colin Marshall, chairman of Inchcape since January, said the group had decided its management structure was "top-heavy". He added: "As a consequence, Charles Mackay agreed to step down."

In the past year, the company has left the FT-SE 100 after the share price collapsed from a high of more than 600p. But the action taken yesterday impressed the City and shares in the company rose 10p to close at 272p.

Inchcape blamed weak demand and margin pressures caused by the high value of the Yen, for the slump in profits from £28.4 million in 1994 to £1.4 million last year. Exceptional charges totalled £130 million, £15 million more than previously revealed. Inchcape made provision for £65 million in restructuring charges including 2,000 job losses.

Inchcape's total dividend falls to 10p (15p). A final of 4p (9p) is payable on July 1.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3881.8	(-25.1)
Yield	4.03%	
FT-SE All share	1833.81	(-9.70)
Nikkei	20915.44	(+214.52)
Dow Jones	8643.86	(+7.22)
S&P Composite	661.58	(+0.56)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	92 3/4%	(91 1/4%)
Yield	5.58%	(6.66%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	6 1/8%	(6 1/8%)
Life long gilt	10 1/8%	(10 1/4%)

STERLING

New York	1.8235*	(1.8305)
London	1.8235	(1.8341)
Frankfurt	2.3285	(2.3251)
Paris	7.7135	(7.7740)
Spain	1.8188	(1.8219)
Yen	161.79	(163.55)
E index	98.8	(98.8)

US \$ & DOLLAR

London	1.4787*	(1.4785)
Frankfurt	1.0527*	(1.0520)
Paris	1.1025*	(1.1025)
Yen	106.17*	(106.57)
E index	98.8	(98.8)

Tokyo close Yen 106.78

NEW YORK STOCKS

Dow Jones	8643.86	(+7.22)
S&P 500	661.58	(+0.56)
Nikkei	20915.44	(+214.52)

Brent 15-day (Jun)

Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$18.40	(\$18.40)
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London close

London close	898.95	(897.50)
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* denotes midday trading price

Liquidators for BCCI may recover further \$1bn

By Patricia Tehan

A GROUP of creditors of the collapsed Bank of Credit & Commerce International yesterday attempted to queue-jump, demanding in the High Court that their claims be paid in full before other creditors receive a payment.

Four separate creditors — a group of Islamic banks, a group of former employees, the IML, the Luxembourg monetary authority, and a claim on behalf of the Panamanian Government — are demanding that their claims be met before a dividend is paid to other creditors.

If they succeed, their claims could delay payment of a first dividend in the liquidation of BCCI which had been due in May or June.

Michael Crystal, counsel for Deloitte & Touche, the liquidators, told the court that the liquidators had so far recovered \$244 million from the US and, when asked by the judge, Vice-Chancellor Sir Richard Scott, how much more they expected, Mr Crystal said: "We think, on a conservative basis, some \$350 to \$400 million and, in a less conservative scenario, it could be as much as \$1 billion."

Part of the recoveries will be put towards increasing the \$2 billion pool of money from which BCCI creditors will be paid a dividend.

Mr Crystal spent the first day of the hearing, which is expected to continue until at least Thursday, setting out the background of the case and then began dealing with claims from various Islamic banks.

The liquidators have made net recoveries of \$3.3 billion since the collapse.

Maxwell to fight for same judge

LAWYERS for Kevin Maxwell are challenging the appointment of the new judge due to try him later this year on further charges resulting from the collapse of his father's business empire.

Alan Jones, QC, yesterday said that they were seeking judicial review, arguing that it was "unlawful and irrational" for the Lord Chancellor not to let the original trial judge, Lord Justice Phillips, continue with the case.

Kevin Maxwell appeared at the Central Criminal Court yesterday before the new trial judge, Mr Justice Buckley, for a formal preparatory hearing, but because of the pending review application, it became merely a short administrative meeting.

Mr Justice Buckley said that, whatever the outcome, he supported an early hearing of the review application so that it would not interfere with the trial timetable.

Lord Justice Phillips had been dealing with allegations about Robert Maxwell's empire since 1993. His mastery of the issues has impressed defence and prosecution teams, but he has now been promoted to a Lord Justice of Appeal.

Directors opposed to early move on EMU

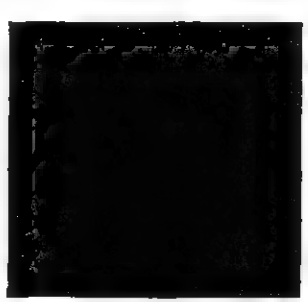
By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S company directors are strongly opposed to the United Kingdom signing up to a single currency in 1999 — though business across Europe is united in wanting competitiveness to be at the top of the European agenda.

In a survey published yesterday by the Institute of Directors, company directors said they have "major reservations" about a single currency, and believe that Britain should not join the first wave of European member states in economic and monetary union. In a survey of its constituent branches, the Institute of Directors said that four fifths of those questioned said that the United Kingdom should not sign up to a single currency on the planned date of 1999, with "widespread concern" about the loss of control of Britain's monetary policy "inherent" in economic and monetary union.

The Institute of Directors added that a "small minority" was keen that Britain should participate fully in monetary union from the outset, claiming that the Government's current opt-out is harming Britain's ability to influence

the issue. British business is divided over Europe, with business bodies such as the Confederation of British Industry maintaining that industry is generally more pro-European than are business bodies such as the free-market Institute of Directors, which says that business remains sceptical. Business opposition



starts on Friday. Europe's employers said yesterday that the IGC must focus on creating jobs and growth.

Unice, the European employers body, said that competitiveness must be the central aim of the IGC. Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, which is the UK's member of Unice, said: "The Unice report proves that businesses across Europe share a common goal of strengthening competitiveness."

But the Unice report endorses the achievement of economic and monetary union, though the CBI argues for options to be kept open.

Robin Geldard, president of the British Chambers of Commerce, said yesterday that companies in the UK were still unaware of the impact on them of a single currency.

He said they "still don't know what a single currency would do for their business". They had witnessed the political battles over convergence criteria, but there had been little debate "over how a single currency would affect them", he added.

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Investors Compensation Scheme declares five firms in default

Adviser crashes with debts of £2m

By ROBERT MILLER

LGL Securities, a firm of financial advisers that allegedly put money belonging to 250 investors into high-risk Canadian mining and commodity shares, against their wishes, has crashed with debts of more than £2 million.

LGL Securities, which traded from Marlborough, Wiltshire, until last summer, is one of five firms officially declared "in default" yesterday by the

Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS). The ICS, is the ultimate safety net for investors who lose money through bad advice, theft or fraud.

It is alleged that LGL Securities acted "negligently" in using private client money to buy shares in mining and commodity stocks on the Vancouver Stock Exchange in a high-risk transaction not sanctioned by investors. It is also alleged that LGL Securities then pledged the shares,

which in fact belonged to the investors, to a major Wall Street brokerage firm as security against other share dealings that the company carried out in the US and in other markets, including those in the Far East.

What money has been found in LGL Securities, including \$2 million of US stock, has been frozen pending the outcome of legal action over ownership rights between the Wall Street firm and Ernst &

Young, joint liquidators to LGL Securities.

The ICS said that the five failed firms accounted for at least 300 investors and £3 million of potential claims. Since 1988, the compensation scheme has paid out £100 million to more than 9,000 investors.

In another ICS case, that of Independent Property Securities, of London, Ltd. in the City, many investors put in considerably more than the

£48,000 ceiling paid out by the compensation scheme. The company, which was authorised by Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, sponsored, promoted and managed Enterprise Zone Property Unit Trusts (EZPUTs), which, in spite of tax breaks, are extremely high-risk unregulated investment schemes. The ICS alleges that investors, including one couple who put up £200,000 for turning a listed building in Plymouth into a

hotel and conference centre, were not told how risky such ventures were.

The other firms declared in default are Harrison Hood & Co. of Waltham Cross, Hertfordshire; Colin Ivor Usherwood, trading as Graham Simmonds Insurance Services, from Folkestone, Kent; and Basgrove, which traded as Pro-Tex and Pro-Tex Mortgage Services.

Pennington, page 27

Complaints fuel pressure for gas code of conduct

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

PRESSURE yesterday grew for gas companies to implement a marketing code of conduct after complaints against Swegas, which will supply gas in the South West, reached "unprecedented numbers".

Ofgas, the gas watchdog, will urge the industry to abide by marketing standards after an investigation by Devon trading officers found that 152 customers had complained about aggressive doorstep selling by Swegas.

The watchdog has a duty to take account of the consumer interest in licensing public gas supply but it ruled out retrospective action against Swegas.

gas, which is a division of the regional electricity company, because the company halted its doorstep campaign after the Gas Consumers Council highlighted complaints.

A spokesman said: "The issue of a voluntary code of practice on marketing is important but we feel that Swegas took the necessary action while we were granting the licences. So no action against the company will be taken."

Devon County Council has sent its report on the activities of Swegas to the Office of Fair Trading, which has the power to force companies to refrain from unacceptable marketing. Devon, which is in the vanguard of domestic gas competition, is keen that nationwide standards are drafted after its findings. Steve Butterworth, director of trading standards and consumer protection for the county, said: "We are seeing a completely new phenomenon and it is important that sufficient guidelines are in place."

Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers Council, said: "The supply of energy to people's homes is a public service. It must not be devalued by forceful agency salesmen selling on commission at the front door." Establishment of marketing standards will also have important implications for open competition in the electricity market.

Derek Lickorish, director of customer service at Swegas, said: "Swegas announced its voluntary decision to permanently stop all unsolicited door-to-door sales in the gas trial area of Devon, Cornwall and Somerset nearly three weeks ago. This decisive action followed an earlier suspension of such sales activity announced on February 15."

Rise and rise of the Pep

By ANNE ASHWORTH

PERSONAL equity plans (Peps) accounted for more than 80 per cent of total unit sales of £564 million in February, as investors hurried to use up their annual Pep allowances before the end of the tax year.

There is now a record £19.6 billion invested in unit trusts, against £89.2 billion a year ago, according to figures released yesterday by the Association of Unit Traders and Investment Funds (Auit). The total invested in Peps is £18.6 billion, up from £12 billion in February 1995. There are now 6.83 million unit holders, against 6.19 million a year ago. The numbers have tripled over a decade; in February 1986, there were 2.64 million unit holders.

Total Pep sales in February were £468 million, up by £164 million on the January figure. In February 1995, Pep sales were just £96 million.

Corporate bond Peps, which invest in fixed interest stocks issued by companies, accounted for 35 per cent (£163 million) of sales, another record. After a slow start last summer, the corporate bond Pep sector is now valued at £770 million. Its popularity has been boosted by cuts in building society savers' rates which have forced investors who need an income to look elsewhere.

British Energy to pay £230m for waste fund

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH ENERGY, the nuclear generating company that is about to be privatised, is to pay £230 million to start the fund to pay for the disposal of old power stations and waste.

It will put £16 million a year into the fund as part of Government regulations for the sale of the reactors in the summer. Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, said yesterday. The fund, which was detailed last month by Tim Eggar, the Energy

Minister, will take effect on privatisation. Mr Lang outlined the exact figures for the fund as he officially opened the flagship of Britain's most modern nuclear plants — Sizewell B, the pressurised-water reactor station in Suffolk.

His official opening of the plant, which is already operating, comes as the Government and British Energy remain locked in talks over the level of debt that the company should take into the private sector.

Bid adviser for Polygram

POLYGRAM, the Anglo-Dutch music and entertainment group, has hired CS First Boston, the Wall Street investment bank, to advise it on its expected bid for MGM/UA, the Hollywood film studio (Eric Reguly writes).

Other potential suitors include Bertelsmann, the German media company, Char-gueurs, of French which has a stake in BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster, and MGM/UA's management. Industry analysts say MGM/UA should fetch between \$15 billion and \$25 billion.

Employment rights cases hit new high

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S high levels of job insecurity are shown today in new evidence from the Government's independent conciliation service which declares it is now handling record numbers of employment rights cases, with a sharp increase in employees taking claims to industrial tribunals.

The Government is to issue soon a draft Bill proposing changes to the system of industrial tribunals, setting out legislative plans for greater use of conciliation before claims go to tribunals.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service says in its annual report that it dealt with record employment rights cases last year, with the total of 91,500, up 15 per cent on 1994 — itself a record year.

But in spite of the Government's plans, Acas says as many as 70 per cent of claims were withdrawn or settled after conciliation by the service. The service's annual report says that the economic "feel-good" factor remains elusive, in part because of the depressed housing market, "but due mainly to increasing fears over job security across many sectors and most levels of employment."

While unfair dismissal cases fell in 1995 from 45,824 to 40,815, people claiming breaches of employment contract now form 17 per cent of the total caseload — the sharp rise. Sex discrimination cases were up 9 per cent. Race discrimination cases fell 5 per cent.

Taylor Nelson turnover leaps

TAYLOR NELSON AGB, the market information company, enjoyed a 33 per cent rise in operating profits on continuing activities. The figure grew to £7.4 million last year, after a 30 per cent increase in turnover to £80.1 million.

At the pre-tax level, the group reported profits 5.4 per cent ahead, at £6.5 million, after losses of £1.4 million last year, the result of acquisitions and costs of £600,000, which were incurred in the search for suitable non-European acquisitions.

Earnings were 5 per cent ahead at 2.02p. A final dividend of 0.35p makes a total of 0.7p (0.64p).

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.07	1.81	
Austria S	13.98	13.98	
Belgium F	46.41	46.11	
Canada C	2.194	2.034	
Cypriot L	0.752	0.697	
Denmark K	9.34	8.54	
Finland Mk	7.88	6.95	
France F	6.15	7.50	
Germany D	2.41	2.30	
Greece Dr	380.00	385.00	
Hong Kong S	12.48	11.48	
India Ru	177.50	181.20	
Israel Sh	3,120.00	4,470.00	
Italy Li	2,688.00	2,843.00	
Japan Yen	177.50	181.20	
Netherlands G	0.682	0.597	
New Zealand S	2.680	2.430	
Norway Kr	2.28	2.18	
Portugal Esc	10.41	9.81	
Spain P	164.50	164.00	
Sweden Kr	10.78	9.88	
Switzerland S	1.28	1.178	
Turkey Lira	11,147.8	10,478.8	
USA \$	1.69	1.69	

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Philips shares hit by profit warning

PHILIPS shares plummeted yesterday after Europe's biggest consumer electronics group warned investors that first-quarter earnings would fall sharply. Jan Timmer, president, said net income from normal business operations would be substantially below last year's first quarter, reflecting a weak consumer electronics market in Europe and America and lower demand from the personal computer industry. Philips shares closed 7.20 guilders, or 10.9 per cent, lower at 59 guilders (£23).

Volume on the Amsterdam bourse was more than three times the daily average. Analysts said the announcement of lower first-quarter earnings was not wholly unexpected, but added that Philips seemed to be preparing investors for a fairly hefty decline when it publishes the results on April 24. Philips said it planned to do everything it could to avoid a fall in earnings for the full year. The company made a net profit on normal operations of 544 million guilders in the first quarter of 1995 and 2.68 billion guilders for the year.

Jobs boost for Belfast

NORTHERN IRELAND was cheered yesterday by the announcement of an £8.5 million South Korean investment which promises 230 new jobs close to unemployment black spots of west and south Belfast. The YG-1 Tool Company of Seoul, which makes precision cutting tools for the aerospace and automotive industries, is to move into an existing factory between the depressed Catholic Twinbrook and Poleglass neighbourhoods. Production will begin in September and recruitment will take place over the next three years.

Aircraft order for AIR

AMERICA'S Continental Airlines has placed an order worth up to \$260 million for 20 ATR 42-500 aircraft with the three-nation marketing group AIR, which is one-third owned by British Aerospace. The 50-seat planes will be assembled at Toulouse, France, by Aerospatiale and Alenia, its Italian partner. Continental will be the first American customer for the latest version of the regional plane. It has placed eight firm orders, and taken options for 12 more.

T&N verdict expected

A VERDICT is expected today on a High Court appeal by T&N against a £65,000 asbestos-related compensation award relating to its former JW Roberts subsidiary. The award was made in October to June Hancock who suffers from mesothelioma, an asbestos-related disease, and Evelyn Murgerson, widow of Arthur Murgerson, who died of the disease. Both won their claim. In a lower court, that JW Roberts knew of the harmful effects of asbestos dust at its Armlay, Leeds, factory.

Lucas wins £650m orders

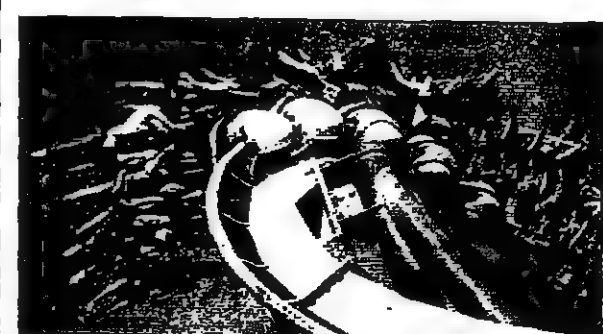
LUCAS INDUSTRIES has won orders worth £650 million over the next five years to supply leading carmakers with a new range of diesel pumps designed to cut vehicle emissions. The pumps, which use electronics to improve the timing at which fuel is injected into the engine cylinders, will be supplied from the Lucas plant at Blois, in France. They will be fitted to diesel versions of the Ford Mondeo, Fiat Bravo and Brava, and the Renault Mégane.

Bulmer buys Inch's

HP BULMER HOLDINGS, the drinks company, has bought the private Inch's Cider Company, for £23.3 million. Inch's, based in Devon, is the country's third largest cider producer with a 7 per cent market share. Inch's leading brand is White Lightning with an alcohol content of 8.4 per cent, against 5.3 per cent for Strongbow. Bulmer's leading brand, the acquisition will be funded by debt, raising Bulmer's gearing from 30 per cent to more than 70 per cent.

Property firm ahead

CAPITAL AND REGIONAL PROPERTIES, the property investment and development company, increased pre-tax profits to £4.7 million in 1995 from £4.1 million in the previous year. Net assets rose to 186.2p a share from 183.5p. Martin Barber, chairman, said the sector's asset performance in 1995 did not fully reflect investment opportunities, but these would become apparent in 1996 and 1997. The total dividend is lifted to 2.5p from 2.1p, with a final 1.7p.

THE TIMES
Take two children
FREE to a
Tussauds attraction

The Times, in association with Tussauds Group, offers readers a chance to take two children, in April (excluding Easter 5-8th inclusive) and May, free to any of Tussauds' eight attractions saving up to £26.

Full details appeared in Saturday's Times, but the following are the attractions you can enjoy, with the amount you would save off the price of tickets for two children in brackets: Chessington World of Adventures (save £26); Alton Towers (save £26); Madame Tussauds (save £11.50); The London Planetarium (save £7.20); Warwick Castle (save £10.50); Rock Circus (save £11.90); Port Aventura, Spain (save £32); Madame Tussauds Seerama, Holland (save £12).

There are white-knuckle rides and haunted woodlands, a grisly Chamber of Horrors and an adventure into space, simulated rock concerts and medieval pageants.

HOW TO APPLY

You need to attach four differently numbered tokens from The Times (no photocopies will be accepted) to a completed entry form which appeared on Saturday and in yesterday's paper. More tokens will be published daily until next Saturday, March 30, 1996.

Present them at the ticket office of the attraction you visit. You are entitled to up to two free child entries per party when paying one full adult admission.

The entry form plus tokens can only be used for one visit to any one attraction, subject to availability.

This offer excludes the Easter weekend and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

THE TIMES
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Offer excludes Easter April 5-8 Inc.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARTERED COMMISSION
The Charter of the Royal United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, 1215.
Notice is hereby given that the Charter of the Royal United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, 1215, is now being printed and will be ready for sale by the end of the month of March 1996.

LEGAL NOTICES

CHARTERED COMMISSION
NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Section 67 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at the offices of the Insolvency Practitioner, Messrs. [Name], of [Address], on the [Date] at [Time].

LEGAL NOTICES

COVENTRY PARCEL SERVICES LIMITED
NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Section 67 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above-named company will be held at the offices of the Insolvency Practitioner, Messrs. [Name], of [Address], on the [Date] at [Time].

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
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OR
FAX 0171-782 7847
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

□ Determination wins day in Clerical Medical battle □ Euro out of favour with business □ Tough decisions at Inchcape

Halifax beats careful NatWest

THE most intriguing question being asked yesterday after Halifax beat off rivals to win the prize of paying £800 million for Clerical Medical was why it reflected so well on NatWest.

NatWest had been widely seen as front-runner for Clerical Medical. The two know each other of old. When NatWest Life was formed three-and-a-half years ago Clerical Medical took 7.5 per cent with an £11.25 million investment and agreed to administer life funds on behalf of NatWest Life. NatWest is now thought highly likely to take up its option to buy in the stake.

Abbey National was seen to be the stalking horse, to push up the price to be paid by NatWest. The bank, however, has made it clear over the past months that it is not prepared to pay high prices for anything, no matter how impressive the business or how good the fit. The market still expects NatWest to do a deal — there are other life businesses up for sale.

The early rise in its shares reflects its unwillingness to pay over the odds.

And, at the end of the day, the Halifax was the more determined. Its price was the highest in a close auction between six bidders whose price range was between £750 million and £800 million.

After last year's merger with the Leeds, a large insurance

acquisition to be completed before the end of this year and a flotation planned for the spring, the Halifax is looking much more impressive an organisation — and certainly more commercial — than of old.

The Clerical Medical deal all makes sense for Halifax. It is better for the society to do this sort of deal before next spring's flotation. Its earnings were not in any sense diversified. It was late away from the starter's gun in setting up a life assurance business. This deal diversifies earnings and gives it a substantial market share which it did not have before. It looks over-capitalised, so to get some of its acquisitions completed before flotation is good news.

In many ways Halifax is a better parent for Clerical Medical than NatWest would have been. The Clerical Medical brand name is all the more important to Halifax because the society has no with-profits business of its own.

There are very few overlaps. The only obvious one is Clerical Medical's 130-strong direct sales force. This must be one of the

subjects of the strategic review that has been ongoing since October last year. There is no logic in keeping it and it seems quite likely that this sales force will be merged with Halifax's own branch-based direct sales team.

Clerical Medical will be well-placed to give a little extra help to the Halifax as it develops a with-profits type policy (obviously without the rights of ownership that such a policy held with a life mutual entails). It should help to give the Halifax a fine start when it is floated and goes straight into the FT-SE as the second or third largest bank next year.

No taste for an entrée of Emu

COULD Emu be Britain's best substitute for beef? Not according to business, which should, supposedly, be acting for sterling to join a single currency. The CBI found half its members dead against. So it is little surprise that a branch consultation by the Institute of Directors found four fifths of re-



spondents against joining the euro bloc from the start.

The beef débacle is a reminder that national economic shocks did not end with the re-unification of Germany. Yet they are harder to deal with unless the regional economy concerned can allow its exchange rate to adjust.

As Britons are repeatedly reminded, however, the European currency project will not be based on economic tests, any more than the UK government's reaction to beef bans. In consequence, the euro promises to be an odd and messy currency.

Unless the Bundesbank backs a pre-1999 dash for growth with a discount rate cut on Thursday, joiners should be suffering from Maastricht deflation and will

want to keep borrowings up to the limit thereafter. Nor is it an accident that members with no chance of making the start are among the most enthusiastic. The euro will become their main unofficial currency, causing hair to be torn out at the Frankfurt HQ. After a euphoric start, the euro might be costly weak.

For business, however, the clincher might be the temptation for Chancellors to interfere more if they can no longer pretend to run the economy via a monthly meeting with the Governor.

Friendship second

IT DID not take Sir Colin Marshall long to put duty before long-term friendship. He took over as non-executive chairman of Inchcape, the beleaguered motors and insurance group, in January, and yesterday his hand was on the dagger that dispatched Charles Mackay, his chief executive, whom he has known for a lot longer than Inchcape.

When Sir Colin joined the board as a non-exec in Novem-

ber, it could have been an all-too-cosy example of City networking. It was not Mackay, however, who has been chief executive since 1991, who had introduced the British Airways chairman to his company. Outside headhunters had been taken on to find someone tough enough to tackle the problems at the company.

Mackay and Marshall go back a long way. They first sat around the same board table at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank when Mackay was on the Hongkong and Shanghai board and Sir Colin was on the board of Midland. They then both served on the Hongkong and Shanghai board, and came to know each other better as Mackay served as a non-executive director at BA when Sir Colin was chief executive. Memories of convivial meals shared, fact-finding tours enjoyed and difficult joint decisions came second to the shareholders. They have had a rough ride at Inchcape and deserved better, as do the 48,000 employees, who have faced uncertainty and job losses as the company failed to find its way.

Sir Colin, no stranger to hard

decisions, is well aware of the flak that non-execs receive and deserve when they protect the interests of their mates ahead of their legal responsibilities towards the shareholders. After every corporate disaster, the cry goes up: "Who were the non-execs and why didn't they stop it happening?" Philip Cushing, who has taken over from Mackay, has been warned.

Safety first

SINCE the 1987 stock market crash, most small investors have been risk averse, preferring the meagre returns of building society accounts and insurance company bonds. They also put their trust in the financial advisers who were governed by the Financial Services Act, which came into operation soon after Black Monday. News yesterday of the failure of several companies who put their investors into dangerous Canadian mining stocks and an extremely risky property investment without revealing too many details of the risks involved shows that the system just about works. Five companies were officially declared in default. Investors will now get up to £48,000 of their money back. In most cases this will mean little loss. Larger investors probably ought to do a little more research and put less trust in the market place.

Alexon returns to profit

Alexon, the clothing retailer, which includes the Ann Harvey, Kaliko and Dash chains, made a £3 million pre-tax profit (£3.7 million loss) in 1995.

The company, which trimmed net debt from £11.6 million to £6.8 million, passed on its dividend.

Last year Alexon won a two-year breathing space from its banks and suspended payments of its preference shares. It last paid a dividend on ordinary shares in 1993.

Scotia down

Scotia Holdings, the emerging drugs company, yesterday reported a pre-tax operating loss of £11.8 million, or 16.7p per share, in the year to December 31, against a pre-tax loss of £3.6 million, or 5.7p.

Page double

Michael Page Group, the recruitment company, recorded pre-tax profits of £17.74 million (£8.49 million) last year. Earnings rose to 18.39p (9.51p). The total dividend is 5p (3p), with a 3.9p final. Shares rose 14p to 200p.

How in black

How Group, the engineering services company, earned profits of £1.2 million before tax (£2.85 million loss) in 1995. Earnings were 2.7p (6.97p loss). The total dividend rises to 1.125p a share from 0.75p, with a 0.75p final. Shares held at 38p.

Vero advance

Vero Group, the supplier of racks and enclosures for the telecoms and electronics industry, lifted pre-tax profits to £8.1 million (£6.6 million) on turnover that rose to £97.2 million (£78.7 million). Earnings were 12.5p. There is no dividend.

Securicor revamp intended to aid Cellnet stake sale

By ERIC REGULY

SECURICOR GROUP, the security and telecommunications company, yesterday announced plans to simplify its corporate structure by merging with Security Services, its 51 per cent owned subsidiary. The deal was partly designed to ensure the snag-free sale of the two companies' stake in Cellnet, the mobile phone network.

Under the restructuring, existing shareholders of Securicor Group and Security

Services will swap their shares for shares in a new company, to be called Securicor PLC. Securicor Group shareholders will receive 6.711 shares in the new company, while the holders of the "A" non-voting shares will receive 3.835 new shares. Security Services shareholders will receive 3.846 new shares.

When the transaction is completed, Securicor will own 100 per cent of Security Services and all investors will

hold shares at the parent level only.

Securicor said that the current two-tier structure was unwieldy. Christopher Shircliffe, finance director, said: "This restructuring will simplify the group's management. We'll have one less listed entity."

He said that the new capital structure should increase liquidity and make future financings easier. The minority shareholders of Security Services should benefit because they will no longer hold an investment in a company with a controlling shareholder.

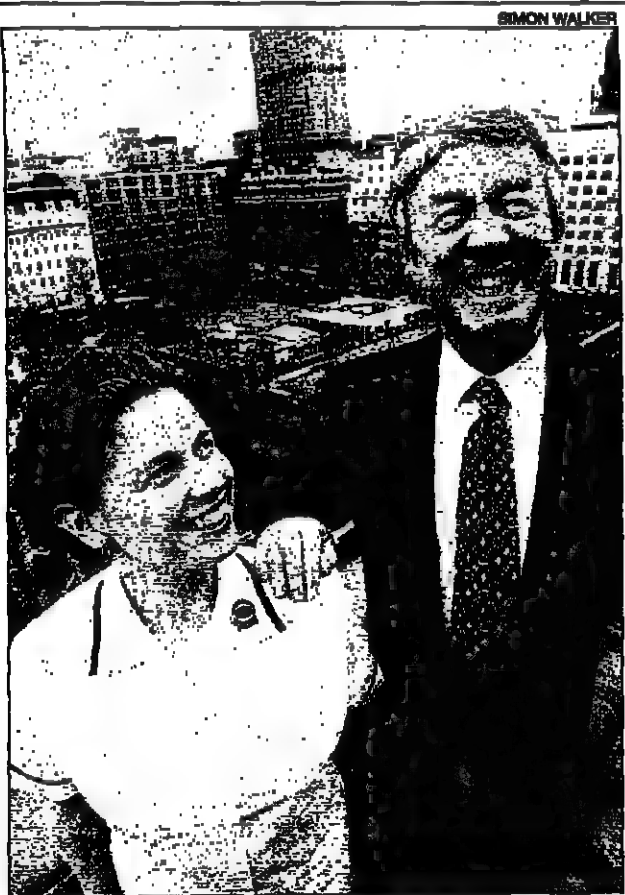
Mr Shircliffe said that Securicor was being careful to ensure that the restructuring would preserve all the tax clearances obtained on the proposed sale of the 40 per cent interest in Cellnet held by Securicor and Security Services. Securicor PLC will now hold that stake directly, with BT holding the rest.

The clearances meant that Cellnet, the second-largest mobile phone company, could be sold without triggering capital gains tax as long as most of the payment is not taken in cash.

Securicor and Security Services last year agreed in principle to sell to BT their 40 per cent Cellnet stake, which accounted for most of their operating profits, but the Government blocked the effort. It appeared that it did not want to give BT, the dominant phone company, the chance to become the dominant mobile phone operator as well.

Securicor said that other companies have expressed interest in buying the Cellnet stake, although no talks are taking place. The market's belief that Cellnet is growing in value has been lifting Securicor shares since January. They closed at £10.55, up 67p.

Tempus, page 28



David Heywood, head of Nestor-BNA, the temporary nurse provider, made 53 per cent more yearly pre-tax profit at £6.3 million to December 31. A 2p final makes an unchanged 3.15p.

Housing sign cheers Travis Perkins chief

TRAVIS PERKINS, supplier of timber and building materials, expects an upturn in trading later this year after signs that the housing market is starting to revive. Tony Travis, chairman, said that trading in the first two months of 1996 remained subdued, but he was optimistic after interest rate cuts. Pre-tax profits for 1995 eased to £36.5 million (£38.9 million). Operating profits rose 4.9 per cent, to £36.1 million, but property disposals fell. A 6.5p final dividend makes 9.3p, up from 9p.

Morgan Crucible surges to £85m

By CARL MORTISHED

SHARES in Morgan Crucible, the engineering and industrial materials group, dipped 3 per cent yesterday despite healthy growth in profits and earnings last year.

Strong demand in all its key markets, price increases and a 1.5 point gain in operating margin helped to raise pre-tax profit by 17 per cent to £85 million, but profit-taking and cautious comment from the company over sales growth and the order book in the current year caused the share price to slide.

Morgan's sales grew by

almost 15 per cent from continuing businesses, with operating profits up from £79 million to £101 million. Some 88 per cent of turnover now originates from outside the UK and Morgan reported strong organic growth in the US, mainland Europe and the UK.

Operating margins rose from 10.5 per cent to 12 per cent and Morgan is targeting margins of 15 per cent in the medium term. The full-year dividend is 13.8p, up 5 per cent on the previous year.

Tempus, page 24

T&S lifts profits by 12%

T&S STORES, the convenience store operator and newsagent with 820 outlets, saw profits rise 12 per cent in 1995 and said it had made an encouraging start to this year.

Pre-tax profits of £15.5 million compared with £13.9 million in 1994 and followed an 8 per cent rise in turnover to £445 million. The strongest increase was in the Dillons' convenience stores, which contributed profits of £7.1 million, up 37 per cent.

Earnings were 16.13p a share (14.53p). A final dividend of 4.3p lifts the total to 7.1p (6.5p).



You're used to successful meetings. So are we.

Ramada Hotel

NOTICE OF MEETING

Clerical Medical

Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the 172nd Annual General Meeting of the Clerical Medical and General Life Assurance Society will be held at 15 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LQ on Wednesday, 17 April 1996 at 2.30pm for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive the Directors' Report and the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1995.
- 2 To receive a Report on the actuarial valuation of the Society's liabilities as at 31 December 1995, made for the purpose of a distribution of profit.
- 3 To re-elect Directors and to fix their remuneration.
- 4 To re-appoint the Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.
- 5 To transact any other ordinary business of an Annual General Meeting.
- 6 To transact the following special business: To confirm the appointment of Mr Adrian Saunders as Appointed Actuary under Section 19 of the Insurance Companies Act 1982.

Any member entitled to attend and vote at the Meeting may appoint a proxy to attend and vote instead of him.

A proxy need not be a member of the Society. Any instrument appointing a proxy must be deposited at the undermentioned address not less than 48 hours before the time fixed for the Meeting.

By order of the Board
S A M Fogarty
Secretary

15 St James's Square
London SW1Y 4LQ
22 March 1996

Issued by Clerical, Medical and General Life Assurance Society
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IARO

Cliveden to seek share quotation

By GEORGE SVEIL

THE company that runs the hotel at the historic Cliveden site in Berkshire is to seek a listing on the London Stock Exchange next month. Cliveden has been home to three dukes and three generations of the Astor family since 1666.

The Cliveden company aims to build up a portfolio of what it describes as distinctive hotels within five years which, it says, will reflect the standards of Cliveden and will benefit in marketing terms from its client base and international reputation.

The Cliveden company's first expansion was the acquisition of a small central London hotel, the Draycott, in October 1995. It is to be relaunched as the Cliveden Town House in May. The Cliveden hotel achieved operating profits of £1.4 million on sales of £6.4 million to end-October 1995. Sponsor and stockbroker to the issue will be Bescon Gregory.

Simon in control of gearing

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

SIMON ENGINEERING, the fire engine and access equipment specialist, returned to the dividend list yesterday after a three-year rescue mission from gearing of 264 per cent. It is now 95 per cent.

The company, which has kept up a steady stream of disposals and shored up resources with a £52 million rights issue since the present management took charge in 1993, also declared itself in the market for an acquisition.

Maurice Dixon, chief executive, said the purchase would be in the company's core engineering area and would help to deliver growth.

Simon returned to profit for the first time in three years, making £8.4 million for the year to December 31. Last year, it lost £18 million, and a year earlier the loss was £160.3 million. The final dividend, payable on a date to be confirmed, was set at 0.64p.

Tempus, page 28

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Talk of buy-back puts Tomkins in the frame

SPECULATION that Greg Hutchings, chairman of Tomkins, the conglomerate, may be about to spend millions of pounds to benefit shareholders, produced a flurry of speculative buying in the shares during late trading.

By the close of business, almost eight million shares had changed hands with the price firming 15p to 257p at which Tomkins has a stock market value of more than £3 billion.

Word is the group, which includes Rank Hovis McDougall and Smith and Wesson guns, is ready to propose spending millions of pounds on a share buy-back to enhance earnings.

Tomkins appears to be everyone's favourite at present. Only last week BZW is believed to have picked up a large parcel of shares, with rival Kleinwort Benson yesterday telling clients to buy. The chartists also claim the shares are a chart break-out and should be bought.

Elsewhere, the rest of the market was suffering from its own version of "mad cow" disease. However, it could be argued that institutional investors were acting more like sheep. "One decides to stay on the sidelines and they all choose to stay on the sidelines," said one broker.

Prices drifted on lack of interest throughout the day and not even a late rally by the gilt market could stop the index dipping back below the 3,700 level. The index finished near its low for the day, down 25.1 at 3,681.9. Investor apathy was reflected in the levels of turnover with just 690 million shares traded.

The mounting concern over the effects of BSE has begun taking its toll on the big food producers. Northern Foods was down 16p at 183p, Unigate 30p off at 407p, Sear's Farming 14p lower at 159p and Robert Wiseman 25p cheaper at 137p. By contrast Matthews, the turkey producer, rose 6p to 122p. Dealers fear that wiping out dairy herds will force milk producers to import dearer milk from abroad. Harrison & Crofield, the animal feed merchant, was another casualty, losing 1p at 154p.

Among leaders, renewed American buying lifted Ladbroke 4p to 193p. Word in the marketplace suggests the long-awaited bid is likely to materialise in the next few



Greg Hutchings may spend millions on share buy-back

days. The Hilton Hotel Group, in the US and Bass, 3p easier at 747p, continue to be tipped as possible predators.

Thorn EMI touched £16.90 before ending the session 15p dearer at £16.83 as talk of a bid from Time Warner in the US was revived. The speculators are suggesting a bid of £22 a share, valuing the entire company at almost £10 billion.

WH Smith held steady at 447p in a falling market, with more than 2 million shares traded. The price has climbed steadily from 390p since October, with reports last week suggesting the group is ready to dispose of its distribution business. WH Smith feels threatened, say speculators, who expect a bid from Asda.

P&O dipped 6p to 514p ahead of full-year figures today which should show a small dip in profits on last year's £341 million.

There is talk that the results may be accompanied by disposal news.

Shares of Austin Reed continue to trade just a shade below their high of 234p at 229p amid claims that it could soon be on the receiving end

of a bid. Next, up 3p at 467p, and Moss Bros, unchanged at 747p, are tipped as possible suitors.

The biggest move on the day was seen in Securicor where the "A" shares soared 67p to £10.55 and the ordinary 20p to £18.05 after the company announced details of a large restructuring and the merging with its associate, Security

Services. Securicor rose 67p to £10.55. Takeover favourite East Midlands Electricity, rose 6p to 615p after announcing a further cut of 2.7 per cent in the price of electricity for domestic customers. The group says it takes the cut in real terms to 16 per cent over the last four years.

It looks as though the worst may be over at Inchcape, the

international trader and services group, with the price rising 10p to 272p despite, as expected, a sharp drop in profits and a cut in the dividend.

Pre-tax profits were down from £228.4 million to £17.4 million. The figures were also accompanied by the departure of Charles Mackay, chief executive.

The new chairman, Sir Colin Marshall, intends to slim down the group and is considering the options for demerging Bain Hogg, its insurance arm.

Over on AIM, Firecrest was a weak market, losing 32p at 90p after announcing details of a placing and open offer at 50p a share to raise £15 million. The money will be used to finance a number of projects.

First Information Group began trading at a healthy premium. Placed at 165p by Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, the shares opened at 183p before ending the session at 181p, a premium of 16p.

Northern Leisure, the bowling and nightclub operator, firmed 2p to 109p as a large line of 597,500 shares went through the market at a premium to the ruling price.

They were sold at 110p, 4p above the current market price.

GILT-EDGED: Prices recovered from a hesitant start to close with some useful gains on the day in late trading. Investors snuck to the sidelines first thing, worried by the worsening "mad cow" crisis and its potential effect on the economy. But some words of reassurance from Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, in the House of Commons were enough to put the market better before the close.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt finished £19.32 higher at £105.4 as the total number of contracts reached 41,000. Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was £19.32 up at £97.32, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 hardened £9.32 to £102.12.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street drew strength from a bond rally, while high-technology shares slumped on fears that the sector may feel the brunt of a slowdown in capital spending. The Dow Jones industrial average at midday was up 7.22 points at 5,643.86.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5643.86 (+7.22)
S&P Composite 651.58 (+0.98)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20915.44 (+214.53)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 11111.76 (+65.03)

Amsterdam:
Euro Stoxx 521.48 (+0.73)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 2250.32 (+10.40)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2510.32 (+0.33)

Singapore:
Straits Times 2605.60 (+0.64)

Brussels:
CAC-40 3003.80 (+20.48)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 774.00 (+3.88)

London:
FT 30 2558.9 (+13.9)
FT 100 2681.9 (+25.1)
FTSE 100 2558.9 (+13.9)
FTSE 250 2681.9 (+25.1)
FTSE 100 2558.9 (+13.9)
FTSE 250 2681.9 (+25.1)

RECENT ISSUES

BZW Eq (Brnd) A 517
Clubhaus Wts 21
First Infmrtn (165) 181
Freemaps (12) 141
Fulmar (154) 188
IOC Ind 123
Int Stoch Trs C (100) 100
Life Off Ops (50) 52
M & G Equity Cap 22
M & G Equity Div 90
M & G Equity Inc 44
Macdonald Htl (149) 91
Marine & Merc (125) 125
New Asia Fund 10
New Asia Fund Wts 24
Perp Inc Gth Ut (500) 510
Primary Hlth (100) 103
Saxen Value C 93
Schneider UK G Us 354
Silver Stiled LN 1
Stadium Group (130) 137
Streamline (180) 175
Triad Group (135) 183
Visual Action (183) 253
Western Select Wts 5

RIGHTS ISSUES

Abbott Md Vdr (400) 89
GWR CV UL 90/01 28

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Ayrshire Metal 148p (+15p)
Manchester United 284p (+20p)
Carlisle 204p (+20p)
Michael Page 148p (+10p)
Shire Pharm 197p (+12p)
Courts Furnish 811p (+33p)
Inchcape 272p (+10p)

FALLS:
Firecrest 90p (-32p)
S Daniels 40p (-10p)
Tay Homes 131p (-14p)
Sentry Farm 150p (-14p)
Northern Foods 183p (-16p)
Carlisle Cross 154p (-11p)
Carmel Midg 424p (-14p)
Delgaty 375p (-10p)
Fibroc Com 375p (-10p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Testing time at Inchcape

INCHCAPE's decision to own fewer businesses is reminiscent of the procedure known as "triage" used by medics in front-line army hospitals. Those wounded but likely to benefit most from immediate surgery are treated first. The rest have to take their chances. Unfortunately, Inchcape's financial triage has been muddled with its desire to fit in with the stock market fashion for focus. Having decided that Inchcape is best sold as an international distribution group, perfectly decent businesses earning decent returns are to be ejected.

The sale of Bain Hogg makes sense, although the failure to find a trade buyer puts a question mark over the likely flotation value. Less easy to understand is the decision to dump Testing Services, the certification business that raised its profits by almost a

third last year while increasing its operating margin.

Inchcape wants to reinvest the proceeds of sale in distribution but the removal Bain Hogg and Testing will leave large holes in the profit and loss account and Inchcape will be hard pressed to achieve in distribution the sort of return on assets being earned by Testing. Inchcape is working hard with Toyota to restore margins to its motor business but the days when Japanese car manufacturers could wipe the floor against the inefficient competition are over.

Inchcape will burn up a lot of cash in restructuring costs and the worry is that the sale proceeds will fill holes rather than be returned to shareholders. At the end of the day, investors would rather have profits than

Securicor

SECURICOR will be glad to be rid of Cellnet. Few companies have seen the price of their shares move on market estimates of the flotation value of a rival company and one that has yet to make a profit. But Orange is only adding to considerable hype over mobile telephony.

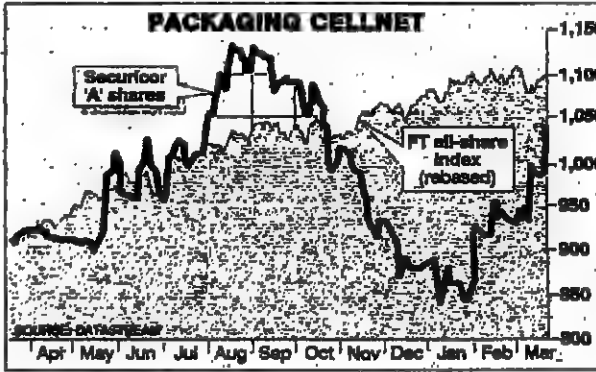
Securicor and Security Services, its 51 per cent-owned subsidiary, want to explain that their proposed merger would preserve tax clearances obtained last year when they tried to sell their joint 40 per cent stake in Cellnet to BT, which owns the rest. Although Securicor insists that it is in talks with no one, including BT, about reviving the sale, it noted that potential bidders have come knocking. Shareholders should encourage the disposal effort.

Morgan Crucible

THE sell-off in Morgan Crucible shares was a mean reaction to a company that has a better chance than many of delivering growth this year.

True, Morgan will be unlikely to deliver anything like last year's 22 per cent gain in earnings in an environment of slower economic growth. But an increase at half that rate should be easily achievable and well ahead of forecast growth rates for the market as a whole.

Morgan's strength is its diversity. No industry dominates its customer base: the automotive sector, one of the largest, accounts for only about 3 per cent of sales but the company also supplies refractory materials for the petrochemical industry as well as ceramics for medical and electronic applications. Materials for new products such as safety airbags for



Securicor A shares

Source: Datastream

Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

No rooms at the top

COULD the Halifax Building Society, soon to become a plc, be taking things just a little far in pursuit of "shareholder value" for future investors? Down from its home in the North, to explain its purchase of Clerical Medical to the City yesterday, and to present its annual results today, the mutual booked one of the grandest conference rooms in the Savoy. Its executives, alas, stayed elsewhere. "We're staying somewhere cheaper to save money," an insider confided. Where? The rather less exciting Strand Palace, over the road from the Savoy, where a modest room costs from £118 compared with the Savoy's £305.

Hobby-horse

ALMOST as work on the £650,000 make-over of the Opera Terrace restaurant in Covent Garden began yesterday, the deputy chairman of the Chez Gerard Groupe which bought the site last year, was already champing at the bit. Laurence Isaacson, who refuses to shut-up shop during refurbishment, insists the dining room be "upgraded" by the end of May for the start of the two-week Covent Garden Festival, which he calls his "hobby" and whose board he chairs. His main concern is signposting for the upstairs restaurant. "In spite of English Heritage, we want people to find it, and we will make it so fabulous that they'll try even harder to make their way up."



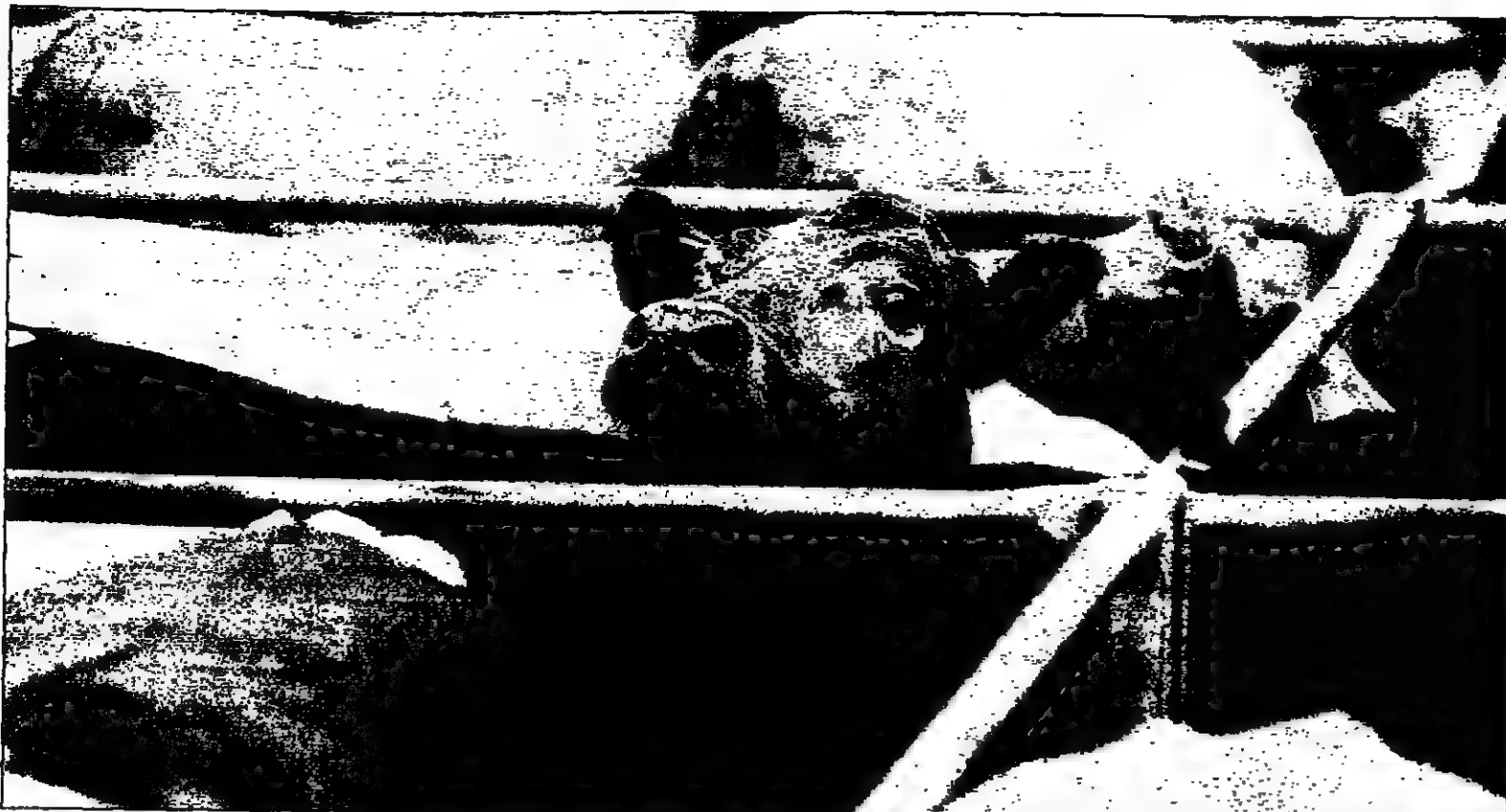
Isaacson: staying open

CHIEF executive of the Alexon Group, John Osborn claims to be all man. "I personify the typical male who hates the whole process of shopping," booms the man who decides what ladies hang in their wardrobes. "I'm head to toe in Marks & Spencer — bought on the hoof at speed."

Rent a vote

IN ITS latest newsletter, the Campaign Against the Arms Trade is advertising free British Aerospace shares, in the hope that supporters will turn out in force for BAE's annual meeting on May 1, to challenge the company's contract to equip the Indonesian Air Force with Hawk fighters.

MORAG PRESTON



The numbers become much more dramatic when slaughtering is considered, especially if the effects are allowed to hit inflation, growth and employment

The cost of the beef crisis is more than a pound of flesh

Janet Bush and Alasdair Murray look at the economic ramifications of BSE

Health was the first and most important fear provoked by the beef crisis which erupted last week. But, as the days go by, the Government and the City are beginning to look at the potential economic and financial consequences.

There is sufficient concern about the impact on the economy that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Gillian Shephard, Education and Employment Secretary, attended an emergency meeting of senior ministers yesterday morning. The Treasury said that it was looking at all the cost ramifications of the crisis. In more colourful language, one government official said: "The public spending people at the Treasury will be doing their nuts."

There are so many uncertainties about how the beef scare will play itself out that calculating the potential cost to the economy is a tortuous affair. Will the Government sanction a herd slaughter policy and, if so, how many head of cattle will be killed? At what price will the Government compensate farmers? Will the European Union help to pay the bill?

But most onlookers believe that the economic ramifications will be significant, in particular for public spending. City analysts yesterday argued variously that the crisis would mean no more tax cuts in the November Budget, that the Government could be forced into holding an early election, that an incoming Labour government would be handed a poisoned chalice — the prospect of having to raise taxes to foot the bill.

The immediate impact of the Government's statement last week that there may be a link between people suffering from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) and eating beef infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) — or "mad cow" disease — has been a plunge in the price of beef and large price rises for other kinds of meat. A straw poll of supermarkets and restaurants by the British Retail Consortium yesterday suggested that demand for beef had dropped by an average of 50 per cent at the end of last week. This estimate was based on very little beef actually being sold. Meanwhile, traders at Smithfield said that poultry prices had jumped 25 per cent and new spring lamb 50 per cent. Beef prices had been marked down by 15 per cent or thereabouts, but price was irrelevant — nobody wanted to buy.

The current plunge in demand alone may have significant economic implications. Guestimates from HSBC Markets and James Capel suggest that the headline rate of inflation could be cut by 0.2 per cent. However, Britain's trade deficit could rise by between £1 billion and £1.25 billion and growth this year could be cut by 1 per cent. Even if there were no other ramifications than a plunge in demand, several billions would be added to the public sector borrowing requirement.

The numbers become much more dramatic when the question of slaughter

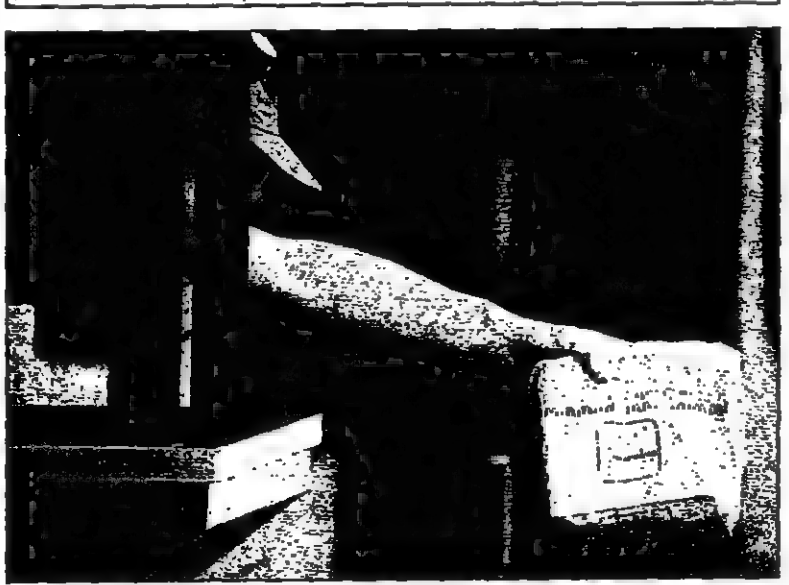
is considered. Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, made no mention of this possibility yesterday, having raised it at the weekend. Speculation has centred on the slaughter of all 4.5 million dairy cows aged more than 30 months. The economic impact of this would depend crucially, as Ian Shepherdson, of HSBC Markets, suggests, on whether the effects are allowed to hit inflation, growth and employment or whether the Government foots the bill to avoid this.

Mr Shepherdson believes the latter is the most likely course. Under this scenario, the Government would fully compensate farmers which would cost about £4 billion. On top of this, it would have to subsidise the price of milk until the new herd was producing milk and/or imported milk could be sourced. This could cost another £6 billion over a full year. The recovery of the herds could take two to three years, so Britain's trade deficit could suffer until 1999.

The cost to the Government's finances is impossible to quantify. Mr Shepherdson said: "The final extent of the damage will depend on the extent to which the EU can be persuaded to cough up, but it seems unlikely that a PSBR hit of anything less than several billions can be avoided."

The uncertainty surrounding the beef crisis spilled over on to the stock market with shares in the food producer sector hit by scares of rising costs and falling sales. But the focus of bearish market sentiment shifted yesterday from meat producers to the dairy companies after rumours circulated that the Government was considering a cattle cull which would hit dairy cows hardest.

The dairy market is worth about £6



Overseas milk and meat producers are set to step up exports to Britain

billion a year in the UK, compared with the £35 billion domestic beef market, and any major slaughter programme would drive up costs for Britain's two largest dairies, Northern Foods and Unigate, as the companies seek alternative supplies abroad. There were also fears that European dairy companies may view the debacle as an opportunity to try to win some of the competitive British market.

The negative sentiment was compounded by a sell notice for the two companies issued by UBS, the broker. Northern Foods generates about 40 per cent of its profits from milk, and its shares fell from 199p to 183p. Shares in Unigate, which makes about 30 per cent of its profits from milk products, also fell heavily from 437p to 407p.

Dalgety and Harrisons Crosfield, the two leading animal feed producers, also suffered as fears grew that the market in feed would collapse after a cattle cull. There was also concern that costs would increase as the companies were forced to alter the make-up of animal feed to comply with new regulations banning meat and bone meal from feed given to other animals such as pigs and poultry.

But the UK Agricultural Supply Trade Association, which represents the majority of Britain's feed producers, denied that altering the ingredients of feed would prove to be an onerous burden to manufacturers. The association said that meat and bone meal made up only about 2 per cent of the feed and that ready alternatives, such as fish meal, were available.

The association also played down fears that the industry could face a rush of compensation claims from farmers who had lost stock or even from infected humans. A spokesman said: "We have examined the legal implications, but we believe that the industry did not act in a negligent fashion and has responded quickly to all new requirements." The association added that any litigants would face the almost impossible task of proving that one particular batch of feed caused a BSE outbreak.

While cattle-related stocks suffered, Britain's poultry farmers enjoyed more bullish market sentiment as the City calculated that consumers would turn to other meats. Shares in Bernard Matthews, the turkey producer, have risen 20 per cent since last Wednesday, while Hillsdown, the poultry specialist which recently sold off its abattoir business, hit a year high of 192p. Foreign food producers are also set to benefit from the beef crisis, with cattle prices rising in European markets yesterday and Argentina promising a big export push.

But perhaps the most unlikely beneficiaries are Australian camel breeders hoping to expand the market for camel meat and "hamburgers" beyond central Australia. Taffy Williams, a spokesman for the Central Australian Camel Industry Association, said: "Camel is a lovely lean meat, something between beef and mutton really. We aim to sell it in the game section — alongside kangaroo and emu."



Major's fatal hesitation after Mad Wednesday

For the second time since John Major won the 1992 election, his Government's credibility has been shattered. In yesterday's Commons exchange, the Labour and Liberal health spokesmen presented Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, with a long list of proposals for tightening regulations on cattle farming and slaughter, ranging from the deboning of all beef to government-supervised labelling for herds free of BSE. None would have entailed significant costs to the Treasury. Yet, Mr Dorrell contemptuously dismissed them all. His reply to the demand for an official labelling scheme was particularly telling: there was nothing to stop individual manufacturers, retailers and farmers offering consumers such information of their own accord.

In making this argument, Mr Dorrell was inadvertently exposing the Government's ideological Achilles' heel — a lacuna that is now all too likely to bring Labour to power. After 17 years of pro-corporate policy with macro-economic policy and trying to cut taxes, the Tories have quite simply forgotten that creating the conditions of trust in which private citizens can operate has always been the main function of the State — one that long preceded the macroeconomic and redistributive agendas of the 20th century. The Tories have also forgotten that the State can command

essential and popular function of government — and one that can be undertaken without terrifying middle-class voters about extortionate tax demands. But wait a minute. Surely, money was exactly the Government's problem in the mad cow scare? Ministers no doubt realised that public anxiety would only be allayed by slaughtering BSE-affected herds, but they also knew full well that such culling would expose them to huge compensation demands. Whatever the economic and moral doubts about compensating farmers, the political reality was unambiguous: full compensation would have to be paid. Not only would this add significantly to the public sector borrowing requirement and thereby make it harder to justify another round of pre-election tax cuts. More importantly, the expenditure of billions on dealing with an unproven health risk that might affect no more than a few dozen beef eaters annually would be a grotesque misuse of public money. The same resources would almost certainly save far more lives in other ways.

These were no doubt the arguments that swayed ministers when they decided on yesterday's do-little approach. A more imaginative Cabinet aware of the creative possibilities of regulation, would surely have realised that state-financed

sources without spending public money and raising income tax. If it were decided, for example, that mass slaughter was desirable, the Government could quite easily finance this not out of general revenues but from future levies on farmers and food processors — not to mention the feed-manufacturing companies whose decision to turn cows into cannibals seems to have been responsible for the epidemic in the first place. There are ample precedents for forcing manufacturers of dangerous goods — and their insurers — to compensate those who used them (in this case, farmers).

By ignoring such possibilities — refusing even to offer the minimal moral support of official endorsement for disease-free and organic herds — the Government has guaranteed minimum confidence among the public and maximum hardship for farmers. Of course, government policy will change, perhaps within weeks, just as it did after Black Wednesday. In 1992, the few weeks of hesitation were fatal to the Government's reputation. The same is likely to be true of the weeks after Mad Wednesday.

Mr Dorrell exposed the Government's ideological Achilles' heel — a lacuna likely to bring Labour to power?

Rachel Kelly on a rival to pastiche offices

Dawn of the groundscraper

A new design of office block for the 1990s is sweeping the City. Out go the neo-classical pastiche blocks complete with pillars and period-style detail beloved of the Prince of Wales. In their stead are a rash of squat, glass, modern "groundscraper". Planners, developers and tenants are rejecting traditional designs in favour of more contemporary, confident blocks. The Corporation of London is currently identifying 20 sites where relatively short but giant buildings of half a million sq ft each can be built. "Groundscraper" typically have five storeys, but maximum floor space, suited to the vast dealing floors needed by American and European banks

setting up London headquarters. They are built of modern materials — often glass triple-glazed — are environmentally friendly, and use latest technology. They are usually cheaper than pastiche, with its fancy stonework. Inside, typically, there is an enclosed street, surrounded by shops and canteens to encourage a sense of corporate community, rather than the atria of the 1980s. Decorative planting is kept to a minimum, and escalators have replaced lifts. Henry Herzberg, an architect with Chapman Taylor and at the forefront of the new designs, says: "Tenants want state of the art buildings that have an international rather than a dated feel about them.

These are often headquarters buildings that need to reflect their corporate philosophy." Two recent planning decisions confirm the vogue. The Prince of Wales's hopes of a classical revival in the City at Paternoster Square were dashed two months ago. His traditional plans — drawn two years ago with classical architects such as Terry Farrell — were rejected as unworkable by the Corporation of London and Mitsubishi, the developer. Michael Cassidy, head of the corporation's planning committee, says: "These were dinky buildings with attractive exteriors designed for small merchant banks. But businesses who want to take space in the City want bigger buildings with

larger floor plates to use as their European headquarters." A second pastiche scheme, at London Bridge City, south of the Thames, is being dropped for glass-fronted modernism. The developer, St Martins, has redesigned the £180 million scheme after prospective occupiers rejected the classical design. The new design is a five-storey glass building, its windows shaded by metal screens. A mast-like structure on the roof gives a nautical flavour. Sarah Gaventa, historian with the Royal Institute of British Architects, says: "The classical architectural style was impractical for large dealing floors because the pillars, which are part and parcel of the classical style, obstructed trading."

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THE TIMES

VISUAL ARTS

Salvage and

LONDON'S VISUAL ARTS scene is a place of constant change and discovery. The city's galleries and museums are filled with the latest works of art, and the streets are lined with the latest in fashion and design. The city's art scene is a place of constant change and discovery. The city's galleries and museums are filled with the latest works of art, and the streets are lined with the latest in fashion and design. The city's art scene is a place of constant change and discovery. The city's galleries and museums are filled with the latest works of art, and the streets are lined with the latest in fashion and design.

Final in the

Roger Boshier and his

DURING THE 1980s, the city of London was a place of constant change and discovery. The city's galleries and museums were filled with the latest works of art, and the streets were lined with the latest in fashion and design. The city's art scene was a place of constant change and discovery. The city's galleries and museums were filled with the latest works of art, and the streets were lined with the latest in fashion and design.



■ VISUAL ART 1

Ranging through the deranged, quirky and exotic art from young Americans at the Saatchi



■ VISUAL ART 2

Derek Boshier, former Pop Art pioneer and exile in Texas, returns with a new London show

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART 3

Brighton-based painters stake out their Territory in an intensely colourful display



■ VISUAL ART 4

... while at Kettle's Yard Judith Cowan deals in the bare rudiments of sculpture

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork admires the dark humour of young Americans at the Saatchi Gallery; plus other shows

Salute for scars and stripes

Lying on the floor with a mattress resting on her swollen head, a woman talks excitedly to an unseen companion. The rest of the large room is deserted, making her seem even more isolated and mysterious. Is she trapped under the mattress, or hiding away from the world? Does the companion really exist, or is the woman conducting a deluded monologue with herself? These are the questions nagging in our minds as we stare down at her, and listen to the manic outpourings of a mind on the edge of madness.

Tony Oursler, the artist responsible for this alarming work, is the most powerful contributor to *Young Americans Part II*, the latest exhibition at the Saatchi Gallery. A former video artist, he now projects talking heads on to dummies and endows them with an uncanny amount of conviction. The woman under the mattress, played by Tracy Leopold, seems disconcertingly real. As she swings from anger and fear to an almost orgasmic level of pleasure, the intimacy of her voice turns viewers into voyeurs.

Oursler's other room in the exhibition, containing several more of his deranged people, bears an unsettling resemblance to a darkened asylum. One woman, lying at the base of a wall where noxious smoke rushes upwards, is able only to gaze around through enlarged eyes and groan. But at least her reaction seems to be an accurate assessment of the predicament she endures. Nearby, a grim and crazed figure with outside head jammed on to an empty jacket and trousers, insists against all the evidence that "I have never felt better in my life than I do now".

Using simple mini-projectors and lighting as restrained as the green lamp glowing softly behind the dark-skinned figure suspended in a corner, Oursler endows his garrulous loners with a haunting amount of conviction. At first sight, the diminutive figure sprawling in an open suitcase seems nothing more than a doll. But once her alert, expressive face starts talking, and using a different voice for

each disconnected statement, the artificial gradually becomes real. Her plight grows painfully acute as she complains, in a panic-ridden falsetto, that "I can't see a thing in here".

Taken as a whole, Oursler's cast summons up a world of forlorn misfits, reduced to conversing with themselves as a way of combating the helplessness and isolation of their existence.

His bleak vision becomes

There is a willingness to keep on laughing in the dark

even starker in the long white space inhabited by Kiki Smith's sculpture. At one end, *Daisy Chain* sprawls across the floor, its central cluster of bronze body fragments encircled by steel chain shaped into petal-like outlines. The delicacy of these contours does little to counter the suspicion that they have shackled the head, arms and legs.

Wholeness is restored at the far end of Smith's space, where *A Virgin Mary* stands on a plain block with hands held out to display her open palms. But the impression of sturdiness soon gives way to the realisation that the Virgin is naked, and her skin has been flayed. Bones and sinews stand exposed on the meaty surface of the bronze, while the veins flowing down her forearms are picked out in silver.

Spirituality is combined, in this challenging figure, with a surgical exploration of bodily facts. Half deity and half anatomical model, the Virgin conveys both ethereal grace and physical vulnerability. Elsewhere, though, Smith concentrates more on frailty. In *Trough*, a plaster cast of a pregnant body has been sliced in half and hung, open and hollow, on the wall. The fullness of her swollen stomach contrasts with the empti-

ness of this container-like form. It looks alarmingly breakable, like the plaster cast of a hunched figure lying in a foetal position on the floor. But both these sculptures are fortified by a sense of purity. They seem ready to hold water for washing, and their whiteness holds out the baptismal promise of renewal.

As Smith is a Catholic, she probably intended her plaster figures to embody a sacramental quality. But she is equally capable of delving inside the body's murkiest passages, and coming up with a sculpture baldly called *Intestine*, which stretches a bronze image of the digestive organ across a panoramic expanse of wall. Bizarre, grotesque and comic, it sums up Smith's determination to ignore taboos and investigate every aspect of the body.

Although Charles Ray shares Smith's overriding interest in the human figure, he concentrates on its external form alone. In 1973, when still a university student, he took 16 modest colour photographs of himself wearing every item of clothing in his possession. Standing to attention in a sequence of shirts, jeans and shorts, the long-haired Ray looks like a suspect in front of a police camera.

But by 1991, his interest in garments and bodies had produced a far more spectacular and streamlined work. Rearing to a height of 8ft, a monumental woman stares at us confrontationally. Powder-dressed in a puce jacket and pleated skirt, she rests talon-like painted fingers on her hips. Ray based this daunting apparition on a normal-sized shop-window mannequin. By blowing it up to the size of a colossus, Ray transformed the conventional model into a predator. But by retaining the awkward prong which supported the original mannequin at the back, Ray reminds us that this fearsome titan is, in the end, only a dummy.

The two painters in the show seem far more elusive, and oddly subdued. Richard Prince, whose earlier work focused on the most glamorous aspects of American life, has now gone to the opposite extreme. His recent pictures,



"A world of forlorn misfits, conversing with themselves": Tony Oursler's *Hysterics* (1994)

where silkscreen and acrylic are combined with scrawled words, are wilfully grungy. They exude decrepitude and despair, a mood reinforced by the messages written in sad, shaky capitals: "Every time I meet a girl who can cook like my mother," runs one inscription. "She looks like my father." In one jaundiced painting the words take on the desperation of a talking head by Oursler: "My parents kept me in a closet for years. Until I was 15 I thought I was a suit."

No messages can be detected on Jacqueline Humphries'

large expanses of linen. She is committed to oil paint alone, and her involvement with predecessors such as Jackson Pollock and Clyfford Still is clear. Confining herself to blood-red, coursing down the picture surface in thin streams, she makes abstraction redolent of random marks on street walls. Ultimately, though, they are too tasteful and controlled to achieve the raw anger that Humphries seems bent on conveying.

Finding them unable to sustain my attention for long, I

turned back to the more disconcerting emotions conveyed by Ray's eerie mannequins. Smith's dismembered bodies and Oursler's marooned monologues. They reveal the most desolating aspects of late 20th-century life, the American dream turned into nightmare. But they do so with inventiveness and mordant humour; a willingness to keep on laughing in the dark.

Young Americans Part II at the Saatchi Gallery, 98A Boundary Road, London NW6 0JF (0171 434 8299)

Forward to basics

Christina Koning on a Brighton show that deals in timeless themes and unfashionable materials

The artists included in *Territory*, a mixed exhibition that opens in Brighton's Phoenix Gallery tomorrow, might be inclined to reject such labels as "Sussex Expressionists" or "post-Bomburgians". But both descriptions have their uses as a way of linking the range of different approaches to landscape represented in the work of these Brighton-based painters and sculptors.

Most of the artists are former students of Dennis Creffield, himself a pupil of Bomberg. A bold fluidity in the handling of pigment combined with a predilection for intense colour characterises many of the works, evoking echoes of Bomberg's paintings of landscape—as his works in turn evoke those of Cézanne.

The show is full of illuminating contrasts. Jane Melfield's vibrant Greek landscapes show what can be done with planes of pure colour; Dave Cook's *Merry Be*—one of the few figure paintings in the show—is more graphic and energetic (as befits its subject, a pageant from a Sussex mystery play). At the other end of the spectrum, the tonal subtleties of John Foyle's *Eucalyptus Tree* seem more in the tradition of Impressionism than the Abstract Expressionism to which Cook's painting alludes.

By the same token, the nervous energy of John Taylor's red and white landscape, *Overflow*, seems poles apart from the fluid serenity of Sophie Reason's *From the Phoenix*, in *Spring*, and yet both works epitomise what this show is all about—exploring the seemingly limit-

less versatility of paint, and the ways in which it can be used to embody a whole range of responses to landscape. John Leach's *Scree Slope*, Wales displays a monumental approach to its subject which is also to be found in other works in the show, notably Julian Le Bas's lyrical seascapes. Don Doody's *Irish Landscape*, which overlays the landscape of the South Downs with a veil of Celtic mysticism, and Bob Stone's *Blue Storm*, a study of clouds massing over a French mountainside, typify the Expressionist mood of a number of the works, whose concern seems as much with internal as actual landscapes.

The Russian-born Tanya Litvinov (represented here by Brighton's *Townscape with Figure*) has described her fellow artists as "by no means naturalistic realists"—and certainly none of this work, despite its commitment to the forms of the real world, could be characterised as slavishly representational.

There is a dogged traditionalism about painting in oil on canvas this late in the 20th century—something of which the group's members are very much aware. The show's manifesto speaks of the need to transcend the traditions of the past in order to forge a new kind of experiment, one free of the gimmickry and nihilism which characterise so much recent conceptual art. "Only painting is truly subversive," Foyle says. Looking at the vitality of the work of display here, it is not hard to see what he means.

Territory, Phoenix Gallery, Brighton (01273 603700) from tomorrow to April 13

Finally back in the swing

Roger Berthoud talks to Derek

Boshier about life, travelling, art and his one-man show in London

Derek Boshier, 58 years old, tallish, slim, curly-haired, fast-talking but soft-spoken, has always been restless. "I've been much more interested in life than in art," he said when we met at his old stomping ground, the Royal College of Art, where he teaches part-time. The RCA was the chief fount of the Sixties Pop Art movement, of which Boshier was, with David Hockney, Peter Blake, Peter Phillips et al, a leading figure. Characteristically, when it was still swinging and exploitable, he disappeared on a scholarship to India for a year.

Boshier subsequently travelled widely, in Eastern Europe, the Far East and America, exploring film, photography and other media and continuing to be involved in leftist political activism. The surprise was not that he accepted a teaching post at the University of Houston in 1980, shortly after reverting to painting. But that he stayed for 13 years. Now is he re-entering the London art scene with his first one-man show since his return three years ago.

It was, he realised in Houston, time to move on. He had always been irritated by British visitors who asked him whether he didn't miss English pubs: in fact he loathed them, partly because his partners had run several back home. Then suddenly he found himself listing ten favourite English villages called

by a Dutch museum curator, starting with pavements, landscape and humour.

"When I went to Texas I was regenerated, really revitalised," he recalled. "It was a new place, a totally different culture, there were these palm trees, everybody loved art, which is a change from here, everyone was enthusiastic, and they gave me a studio. Whenever you go anywhere, for the first few months, maybe even years, everything is very fresh, you've got the eye of an outsider. My first works were to do with looking at Texas culture: for instance, I did a series of paintings de-machoing the cowboy. Then I broadened out to look at American—and Mexican—culture."

The decision to leave was not easy. "It's much harder for me to be an artist here than in America. There's much more art about there, and it's much more embedded in the culture. There's a lot going on in Texas, and Houston is very international, more so than Dallas." Thanks to some successful shows, he had bought a colonial-style house with a wonderful garden, to which he added a big swimming pool. "People here don't realise that Houston is very lush, verdant and, yes, humid, that's the hardest thing. But it's marvellous to have sunshine most of the time. And Houston is a friendly city."

However, he is happy now to be back in Somerset—you don't get villages called



Boshier: missed pavement, landscape and humour

Kingsbury Episcopi in Texas. "In the Fifties and Sixties art school opened up the only possibility for working-class kids to get a further education, based on artistic rather than academic skills. At that time my parents lived in Basingstoke, quite near Aldermaston, and I became sort of involved in the anti-nuclear movement." He has, he says, always striven to make his work "socially orientated, in the broadest sense".

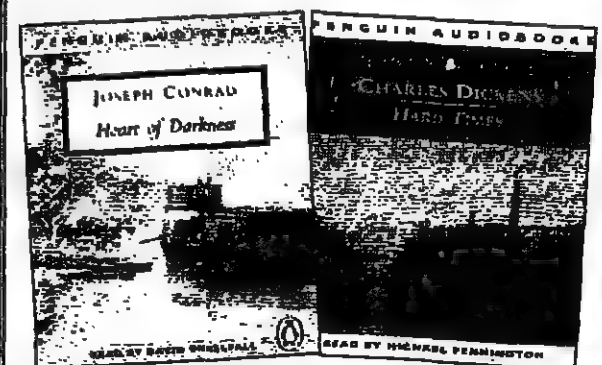
His method has been to draw heavily, and often sardonically, on newspapers and advertisements. His new paintings refer either directly or obliquely to events such as the Bulger murder case, the Waco holocaust, and the big IRA bomb in the City. Often they feature a dominant rectangle of a single colour which seems to squeeze the action, portrayed in black and white photographic images, to the periphery. "What I'm trying to

do formally is to flip the traditional relationship between the foreground and the background, so that the action is sort of hidden or reversed."

One of his favourite images since the early Sixties is of a falling man, a sort of Everyman, which he once adapted photographically for a record cover showing his friend and collector David Bowie spread-eagled. "It's a free-floating thing, a symbol of liberty, of countering gravity, of freedom," Boshier's restless preoccupation with humanity, with "the amorphous us", as he puts it, remains undiminished by his move to Somerset. His next show is on a kibbutz in Israel. He will go on seeking to regenerate himself as an artist. As he puts it: "I'm interested in what I don't know, in finding out. Life is a gift."

Derek Boshier's recent paintings are at Connaught Brown, 2 Albemarle St, London W1 from March 22 to April 20.

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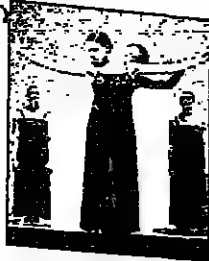
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TOKEN 9



DANCE

The Arts Council has new schemes to lift the profile of dance — but where will the money come from?



MUSIC 1

John Drummond takes charge of his own tribute concert, and adds a twist of Gallic

THE TIMES
ARTS

MUSIC 2

In from the cold: Andrew Davis puts forward a persuasive case for the *Sinfonia antartica*



TOMORROW

Stars in Salzburg and astonishments in Aix: *The Times* previews Europe's top summer festivals

OPERA

Music as the food of lust

CHABRIER was particularly good at writing "music to make babies to", as he so charmingly put it, and while the specific point of reference was his soft-porn cantata *La Sulamite*, there are several passages in the improbably named grand opera *Gwendoline* that bring such activities to mind.

The eight-minute entr'acte and the long, rapturous wedding scene are especially suggestive of rumpled sheets, and I dare say a physiologist could map out a chart equating Chabrier's step-modulations with various states of arousal.

So much is beyond dispute: the great mystery is why *Gwendoline* (1896) ever won the reputation of being Wagnerian. There is a fleeting reference to Brangäne's Watch from *Tristan*, and that's about it: the rest is as French as a packet of Gitanes on a Savres plate in the Petit Trianon. Its ancestors are Berlioz and Gounod, its heirs the Debussy of *Pelléas* and all of Ravel.

Maybe it's the action, set as it is among warring Saxons and Danes to 8th-century Britain, with a hero who's been too busy with fire and sword ever to have met a woman, plus references to Valhalla and Odin.

The Chelms Opera Group's rumbustious

concert performance on Sunday made a strong case for *Gwendoline* as one of Chabrier's most possible stage works. Unlike the incomplete *Briséis*, which stays up on a cloud of ecstasy for its whole duration, *Gwendoline* is full of variety — war music, wedding music, rustic music — and has a coherent dramatic shape.

The big tunes, the delicate spinning duet in which the Saxon heroine tames, Omphale-style, her Danish admirer to the amazement of his followers, who are bent on traditional rape and pillage, the moment they fall in love (woodwind interludes semi-chastely intertwining in semitones) — there is scarcely a dull bar in the score, and with less than two hours of music there is little time to worry about the ineffable Camille Mendès's less-than-convincing libretto. The right analogy is Bizet's *Pearl Fishers*: the power of the music sweeps all doubts away.

The conductor, Andrew Greenwood, showed true understanding of the idiom, both its energy and its lyricism, catching its perfumed ebb and flow and really earning the assorted climaxes. He provided ideal support for the soloists, willing them to sing as expressively as possible.

Donald Maxwell, visibly fighting a heavy cold, sang heroically as the Danish hero, and in good, clear French. Christine Burningham was especially affecting in *Gwendoline*'s gentler moments and rose fearlessly to the — I was about to write Wagnerian — finale. Ian Caley's tenor sounded authentically French as her devoted father.

In an operatic world that was not restricted to revivals of *Tosca*, *Gwendoline* would be a prime candidate for a slap-up new production. It is a musical goldmine (or brothel, if you prefer).

RODNEY MILNES

The Arts Council launches a new policy today to secure a better deal for dance. Debra Craine reports



Robert Cohan's *Stabat Mater*, currently revived by Rambert Dance Company, is the kind of classic modern work that would benefit from a change in Arts Council policy

Ten cents a dance is no longer enough

The Arts Council has a new policy on dance. This morning Lord Gowrie will unveil an 18-page document that sets out to define the priorities for dance funding in England for the foreseeable future.

At this point you are probably thinking about turning the page. But wait. If you are one of the 4.3 million people who attend dance performances every year, read on. For this will affect what you see on stage.

Dancers are not very good at expressing themselves verbally. And neither, it seems, are dance bureaucrats. The report, *The Policy for Dance of the English Arts Funding System*, does not make terribly exciting reading. There are enough woolly generalisations and vaguely worded good intentions to deter even the most determined dance consumer. Yet buried inside are some eminently admirable suggestions.

The Arts Council wants to see a higher profile for dance, recognising that the art form needs to climb out of its self-imposed ghetto. So the new policy will be to increase the number of dance performances — even the number of companies — and find more theatres to put them in.

The Arts Council is reaffirming its commitment to the establishment of a flagship

national dance house, but it clearly remains a long-term goal. In the meantime, more and better buildings for dance will be developed across the country to handle increased touring by the existing companies. And new performing spaces will be sought outside the traditional theatres — places like shopping malls, airports, or the concrete walkways of the South Bank.

The Arts Council will also work to improve the status and welfare of dancers themselves, traditionally at the bottom of the performing ladder. Working conditions, salaries, pension provisions and contracts will all be looked at.

The message is simple, says Hilary Cary, Director of Dance for the Arts Council. "Holistically, we are seeking a better environment, whether you are doing it or whether you are watching it."

What you are watching is also a priority under the new

policy. There will be increased support for new work, but this doesn't mean *adrie blanche* for self-indulgent choreographers. "Production needs to be balanced with consumption," says the report, "and com-

panies will be encouraged to consider audiences' needs and marketing as an integral part of artistic policy." In order words, think about whom you're making dances for. Someone has to want to pay to see them.

Neither is old work forgotten. Contemporary dance, especially, has been rather cavalier about shelving its past (classical ballet swings to the other extreme, eschewing the new in favour of the tried and true). There are few mechanisms for

recognising our contemporary dance heritage and the Arts Council wants to see this situation rectified.

"A lot of companies are looking at revivals of their work and promoters are keen to see more revivals," adds Cary.

"We can't afford to ditch our past." How true. As Rambert Dance Company's current revival of Robert Cohan's *Stabat Mater* proves, there was some outstanding work in the Seventies and Eighties that deserves to be seen again.

So the formula now looks like this: successful old work and better new work danced more often in improved theatres by dancers who are better paid. It all sounds

wonderful. But where is the money to come from?

There will certainly be no increase in the Government's grant to the Arts Council — just the reverse, in fact. Already this year is pouring £23 million into the public funding of dance in England, is supporting fewer companies in an effort to fund them better. So all eyes will naturally be turned towards the only fat wallet in town, the National Lottery.

"We have to look at the lottery," says Cary. "There is a new direction for the lottery and dance companies have to keep their eye on the prize."

But the odds of claiming a big enough prize are almost as long as winning the lottery itself. Alternative sources of funding will need to be explored, both from the private sector and from local authorities. The report also applauds the growth in the number of

6 The new policy will affect what 4.3 million people see on stage

CONCERTS: Tribute to John Drummond; South Pole rediscovered; numbers add up for Avanti!

French with few tears

BBC PO/Tortelier
Free Trade Hall,
Manchester

AT A concert given in his honour by the BBC Philharmonic, Sir John Drummond might have been expected to smile benignly from his seat at the front of the circle and, at the end, offer a modest wave to the audience and orchestra.

In fact, no: he opted instead for the rather more conspicuous role of presenting the programme from the platform, introducing each item with engaging urbanity and only the occasional indication that an outstandingly successful Controller of Radio 3 and director of the Proms does not have to be an infallible musicologist as well.

The programme he compiled — all of it French — was characteristically well designed and the choice of soloists uncommonly interesting. He could scarcely have done better than select Kathryn Stott, who blended the brittle and the expressive in exactly the right proportions in Ravel's Piano Concerto in

G. Her precarious relationship with the evidently hard-pressed woodwind in the finale was no more than an authentic reflection of the composer's taste for living dangerously at the time he wrote it.

Maria Ewing's interpretation of Berlioz's *Les Nuits d'été* was less convincing. After all, they are just songs, and not the operatic scenes she apparently wanted to make them, or some of them. Overemphasis

and lingering introspection can cause a singer to lose touch with the melodic inspiration and rhythmic impulse of these pieces. Just as Ewing did in *Sur les Lagunes* in particular. With such a persuasive personality and such resources of vocal colour available over a wide range, it was frustrating to hear the darker songs in the middle less well characterised than the comparatively playful ones that open and close the set.

The concert began with Bizet's Symphony in C, which Tortelier rather surprisingly treated as if it were early Beethoven rather than a charmingly modest item in a purely French tradition. It ended with the second suite from Roussel's *Bacchus et Ariane* — in a performance remarkable for its wholehearted dramatic orientation and sustained energy — the BBC Philharmonic finally sounded at its best.

GERALD LARNER

Icy inspiration

BBCSO/Davis
Festival Hall

AT A time when film music could be admired as an art as well as a craft, Vaughan Williams evolved an entire symphony from his film score for *Scott of the Antarctic* (1948). The *Sinfonia antartica*, as he called it, seventh of his nine symphonies, was long treated far too condescendingly on account of its provenance. But Andrew Davis, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, has now joined a handful of other conductors in the present generation to give the work its due.

His performance in this programme, one of the BBC's successful sit-where-you-like-for-£10-a-ticket concerts, gave the symphony all the spacious grandeur its pictorial element can take. But at the same time he probed the universal and philosophical significance embodied in it — of human endeavour choosing to con-

front implacable natural forces. Hence the chilling effect of offstage wordless women's voices from the BBC Symphony Chorus, and of solo soprano Patricia Rozario evoking the white wilderness with the brittleness of keyboard tone, while the wider range of instrumental sonorities created tone-pictures of ever-changing focus.

The balance of detail was securely woven and only the lack of sufficient forceful momentum in the scherzo movement and the epilogue detracted from the imposing effect of the whole.

The concert was dedicated to the memory of Toru Takemitsu, most poetic of Japanese composers, who died last month. Dreams and images of water always stirred his imagination, and both were combined in *I Hear the Water*. *Dreaming* which began the programme. A short, Debussy-like impressionistic rhapsody for flute and orchestra, it offered a limpid flute solo from Patrick Gallois, and delicate orchestral textures.

Between these works the Portuguese Arthur Pizarro was a likeable piano soloist in Mozart's C Major Concerto (K503), notable for his clarity of articulation in rapid finger-work and decorative passages, unafraid to add extra embellishment where he thought it appropriate, and always exuding poise and confidence in making the solo writing tell. Davis ensured he had sympathetic and perceptive support.

HILARY FINCH

NOEL GOODWIN

Finnish line to a promising future

Avanti!
Purcell Room

AVANTI! still deserves the exclamation mark which is an integral part of its name. The Finnish ensemble that can make itself small enough to play an avant-garde work for two drumsticks, or large enough to take on Beethoven's Ninth, visited London at the invitation of the Nash Ensemble to represent a lively Finnish quota within the Nash's enterprising 20th-century Music Series.

The group appeared in its incarnations as quartet, quintet, septet — even as soloist — and spanned three generations of Finnish composers. The central and by far the most important work of the evening was Magnus Lindberg's *Clarinet Quintet*. This classical work of 1992 carries Lindberg's boast that it contains the only slow movement he has ever written. However, as the quintet is in one, single hyperactive movement, this may well seem like yet another instance of the composer's laconic humour.

But there, among the whirling scale fragments which turn the clarinet (Kari Krikkui) into a miraculous hummingbird, and the dynamic processes which push the music to its extremes, is an off-centre section of almost unbearable suspense. This "slow movement" builds rather than releases tension, forcing a loud, long single note out of the clarinet before a climactic coda unwinds the music in playful simplicity.

This work, like Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*, whose concert suite ended the evening, will surely stand the test of time. I am less sure about Usko Meriläinen's *Metamorfosa per 7*, originally commissioned in 1968 as a little three-movement companion piece to the Stravinsky and,

in its meticulously composed variations, sharing its instrumentation and something of its character.

Lindberg's contemporary, Kaija Saariaho, was represented by a piece of ephemera: the *Nocturne* for solo violin (John Storgards) which she wrote as a response to the death of Lutoslawski, even as she was working on her Violin Concerto, premiered at last year's Proms. A single note quivers out of silence into its own harmonies, and spends some six minutes as an uneasy spectre struggling for song, or even sound.

From Seppo Pohjola, a pupil of Lindberg, we heard the UK premiere of his Second String Quartet. This is a substantial work of tough, post-serial writing, challenging each instrument and tugging the listener between propulsive energy and sudden stasis.

COMEDY

Laughs in the isles

BEFORE the advent of *The Voice*, that feisty Brixton-based tabloid, Britain's leading black newspaper was the high-minded *West Indian World*. The routine there was fairly laid-back, as anyone who worked there will testify, and it was no great surprise when the paper finally closed. But on one point the publisher was implacable: West Indians were to be described, in print, as "Westindians", the idea being that in the less than welcoming Mother Country immigrants had to put aside inter-island rivalries.

A joy of Felix Dexter's act is the way in which he shows that beneath the inner-city accents many of the old instincts linger. Jamaicans tend to look down on Barbadians, Barbadians still regard Jam-

Felix Dexter
Lewisham Theatre

aicans as unruly and both often see the other "small islanders" as bumpkins.

Any rising black comedian is doomed to be hailed as "the new Lenny Henry". Dexter, whose monologues are the wittiest segment of BBC2's quickfire sketch show, *The Real McCoy*, does not yet have Henry's broad repertoire of characters, but has already marked out his own, more rootsy territory.

His most vivid creation is Nathaniel, the West African "student" who never allows his continual failure to pass his accountancy exams to undermine his self-confidence. No less than Al Garnett, he cherishes his own set of stereotypes about Jamaicans, their BMWs and their women.

A master of dialect and nuance, Dexter shifts seamlessly between patois, Cockney and the Sloane banter of a self-satisfied public school "brother". His portrayal of a zealous Underground ticket inspector determined to stamp out "foolishness" is poignant and amusing, teasing out the differences in attitudes towards authority of the first-generation immigrants and their grandchildren.

But when he moves away from race altogether, he is astonishingly funny in the best tradition of robust, colour-blind humour.

CLIVE DAVIS

THE TIMES

Save £35 on tickets to see the Broncos

PLUS win a weekend trip for two to see Paris Saint-Germain v London Broncos

THE London Super League rugby season kicks off next weekend and *The Times* is offering readers the opportunity to buy a season ticket for the London Broncos home games for £75, saving £35 off the normal season ticket price of £110.

Super League rugby is a sport all the family can enjoy with entertainment before the kick-off and at half-time. And their base, at Charlton Athletic football club's ground, The Valley, in southeast London, has good public transport connections and car parking.

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With your season ticket you get:

- reserved seats for 11 home games (including two FREE games)
- a commemorative T-shirt
- London Broncos cap
- no queuing for tickets
- Super League rugby is really taking off. Here the expansion began in the eighties when new clubs were formed, including Fulham, the club from which the Broncos can trace their roots.

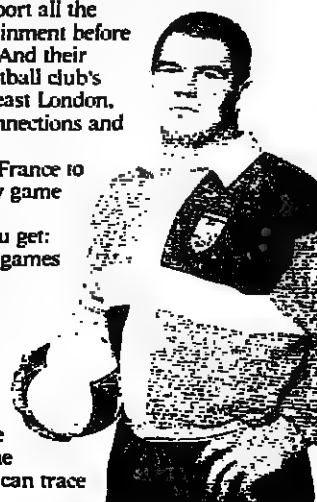
Season ticket credit card hotline 0181 776 6670

HOW TO ENTER

To win a weekend trip for two to Paris and tickets for the Super League rugby game, simply answer the following question:

From which London club can the Broncos trace their roots?

Our competition hotline number will be published tomorrow, along with a second question. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received.



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LAW

● HELPING THE YOUNG 39
● DIVORCE REFORM 39

Real time, false logic

David Thomas
challenges one
aspect of Michael
Howard's new
sentencing
proposals, due
out this week

When Michael Howard outlined at the Conservative Party conference his plans for tougher sentences, he also indicated plans for doing away with the system of early release of prisoners, and making them serve their sentences in full.

The move seemed to be part of a wider policy of getting tough on crime. It had one overwhelming drawback. If courts continued to pass the same sentences as at present, but offenders served the whole of the term rather than one half of the sentence, as usually happens now, there would quickly be a dramatic rise in the prison population. Precise calculations are impossible, but probably the number of people in prison on any one day would go up by between 25,000 and 30,000 within a period of about two years.

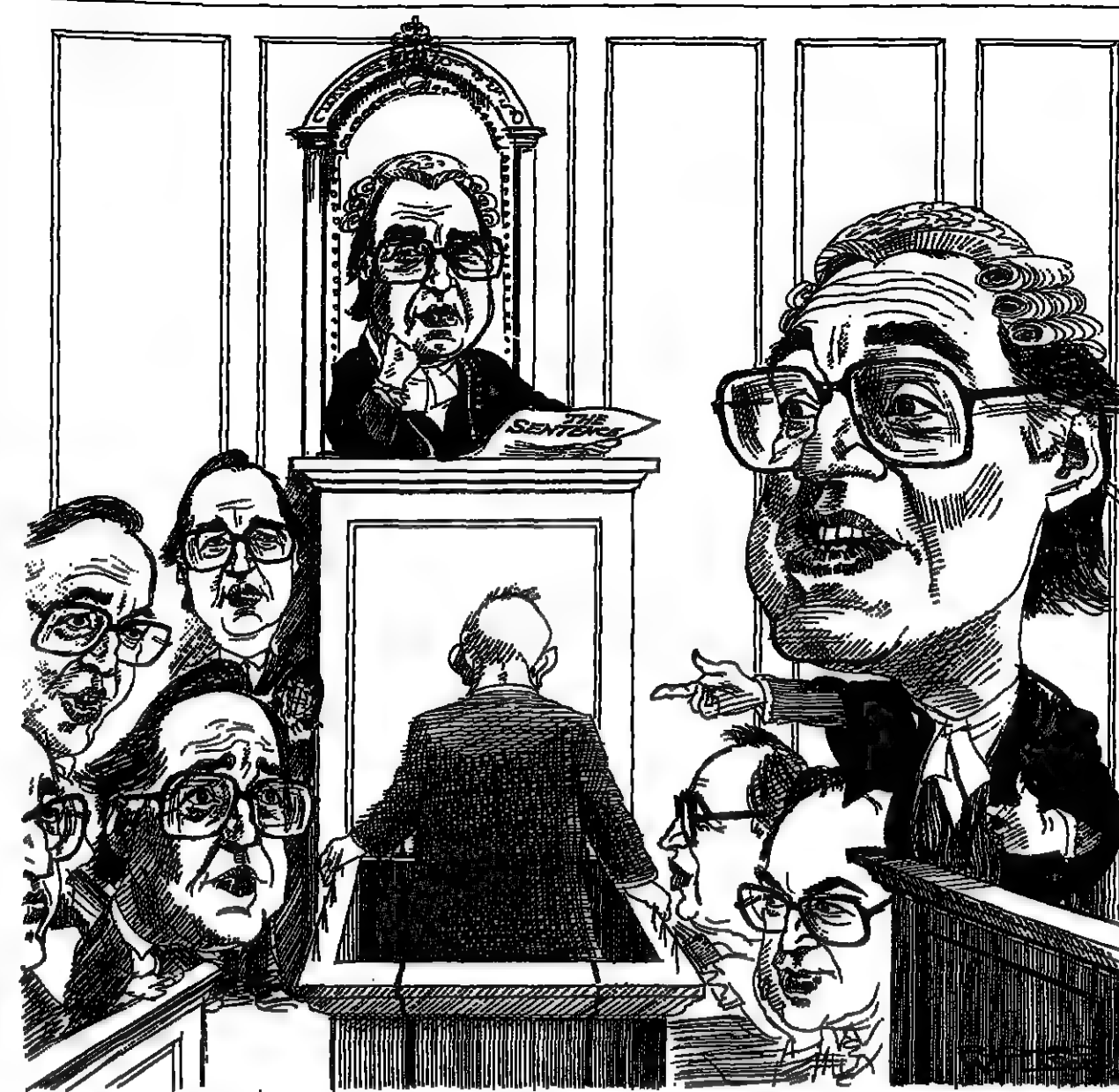
Clearly, it is impossible to expand the capacity of the prison system to this extent in such a short time, particularly with severe restraints on public expenditure. But it seems that Mr Howard's promise has been misunderstood. The objective — in the plan for "real time" sentences at least — is not tougher sentencing, but more honest sentencing.

The Home Secretary argues that the public is being misled by hearing a court pass a sentence of imprisonment for a number of years, without knowing what it really means. His solution is simple: make the sentence shorter, but make the offender serve the whole, or almost all, of the sentence. The public would then know exactly what the courts were doing in their name. What is wrong with that?

A great deal. The current system of early release is relatively new. It was put in place by the Criminal Justice Act of 1991 and came into effect in 1992. Unlike many of the changes in the law on sentencing in the past decade this one was based on carefully thought-out proposals, made by a committee chaired by Lord Carlyle, QC.

The new system has the virtue of simplicity and fairness. It divides prisoners into two categories — short-termers serving less than four years, and long-termers serving four years or more.

A short-term prisoner serves half of the sentence passed by the court; the second half of the sentence is suspended. If, how-



DO NOT PASS JAIL

THE Home Secretary is expected to publish his White Paper this week. Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, says the proposals will not deter offenders and will achieve nothing more than "a bonanza for prison architects". The White Paper will propose: minimum three-year terms for persistent burglars; six years for repeat drug dealers; automatic life sentence for second-time rapists and armed robbers; real-time sentences and ending automatic inclusion of time on remand as part of jail term.

ever, the prisoner commits another offence during the second half of the sentence, he can be ordered back to prison to serve the remainder of the sentence. There is no remission for good behaviour; prisoners who offend in jail have extra days added to the time they have to serve.

A long-term prisoner is in much the same position, except that he or she is not entitled to release at the halfway stage: the offender may be required to remain in prison until two thirds of the sentence has been served. Whenever prisoners are released, they are liable to return to prison to serve the balance if they reoffend.

There is nothing dishonest

about this. Anyone who takes a few simple steps can find out how it works. Anyone who can divide by two (or three in the case of a long-term prisoner) can calculate the real effect of any sentence. There is no hidden discretion in the case of short-term prisoners, and in the case of long-term prisoners it is limited to the choice between release after half and two thirds.

But scrapping this system in favour of one under which prisoners are served the whole or almost the whole of their sentences would have grave consequences. The guidelines, tariffs and sentencing conventions by which judges are

guided would be undermined. A complex structure of sentencing practices, developed over several decades by thousands of decisions of the Court of Appeal in individual cases, supplemented by judicial seminars, would be thrown away overnight.

Meanwhile, individual judges would find their own way. The result would then be unacceptable inconsistency.

In this respect, Mr Howard's proposed system would be far less honest than the system we have. It would also be more lenient. A person sentenced to three years' imprisonment now comes out after 18 months, with what amounts to an 18-month suspended sentence. Under Mr Howard's system, the offender would be sentenced to 18 months, serve 18 months and be released with no further sanction.

There is an easier way to achieve a sentencing system that is not open to any charge of deception. It does not require an alteration of the system, or even legislation. If judges were to explain the effect of a sentence when passed, nobody would be left in doubt about what it meant.

"The sentence is three years' imprisonment. That means that you will serve 18 months in prison. You will then be released, but if you commit any further offence during the next 18 months, you will be recalled to prison to serve the remainder of the sentence..."

A simple change of practice along these lines would surely clarify the system and make Mr Howard's legislation redundant.

● The author is a barrister and the editor of Current Sentencing Practice.

Protecting the right to private passion

Earlier this month, the House of Lords gave a second reading to the Sexual Orientation Discrimination Bill. Baroness Turner's Bill would, if enacted, make it unlawful to discriminate in employment against a person because he or she is (or is thought to be) homosexual, lesbian or bisexual. The Bill will now be considered by the House of Lords in committee.

The case for legislation is overwhelming. Parliament has made it unlawful for employers to discriminate against employees, and prospective employees, by reference to a variety of characteristics which are irrelevant to an employee's ability to do the job: race, sex, marital status and (most recently) disability. To prohibit employers from taking decisions based on such irrelevant personal factors promotes both social justice and business efficiency. People's sexual orientation is as immaterial to their ability to do a job as their race or sex. Yet discrimination against homosexuals and lesbians in the workplace remains common.

Of course, legislation should not impose unreasonable burdens on industry. But for Parliament to do nothing would aid and abet injustice.

The failure of politicians in various countries to take effective action against sexual orientation discrimination has led victims to seek redress from courts. Their lawyers have found that the right to sexual idiosyncrasy is not easy to defend in the passionless atmosphere of a court of law. The law depends on logical rules, but, as Pascal observed in his *Pensées* in 1670, "the heart has its reasons which reason knows nothing of".

The extent to which courts have required the State to protect individuals from discrimination because of their sexuality, and to respect the right to private life, is the subject of an important new book, *Sexual Orientation and Human Rights* (Oxford University Press, £40) by Dr Robert Wintemute, a lecturer in law at King's College, University of London. He assesses judicial consideration of the rights of homosexuals, lesbians and bisexuals in three jurisdictions: under the United States Constitution, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

At one extreme of judicial responses is the dismissive reaction of the majority of the United States Supreme Court in *Bowers v Hardwick* in 1986. By five votes to four, the court rejected a claim that the Constitution confers a right for adult men to engage in private, consensual sexual relations without being prosecuted. Justice White concluded that it was "at best facetious" to contend that the constitutional notion of liberty confers "a

fundamental right to engage in homosexual sodomy".

At the other extreme is the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in *Dudgeon v United Kingdom* in 1981. The court decided that the prohibition on homosexual conduct between consenting adults in private in Northern Ireland was a breach of human rights because it "concerns a most intimate aspect of private life" and so "there must exist particularly serious reasons before interferences on the part of the public authorities can be legitimate".

The European Court has based its jurisprudence on the powerful theory that the State should protect people's fundamental choices as to how to live their private lives, unless there is a strong justification for interference. Surprisingly, and unconvincingly, Dr Wintemute prefers to analyse sexual orientation issues as an aspect of sex discrimination law. He cites, with approval, the 1993 decision of the California Court of Appeal that a publisher's refusal to include a photograph of a male ex-student and his male partner in a high-school class reunion picture book was unlawful sex discrimination because the publisher would not have objected if the former student's partner was female, rather than male.

Disappointingly, Dr Wintemute only assesses the case for finding prima facie violations of the rights of homosexuals and lesbians. He will need to produce another volume to consider the strengths and weaknesses of the justifications (such as morality, public health, the rights of others) which have been asserted as the basis for discriminating against people on the ground of their sexual orientation, or interfering with their right to private life.

In his book *Sex and Reason*, Judge Richard Posner of the United States Court of Appeals suggested that when judges decide cases about sex they "know next to nothing about the subject beyond their own personal experience, which is limited — perhaps more so than average — because people with irregular sex lives are pretty much (not entirely, of course) screened out of the judiciary".

Dr Wintemute's work is recommended to judges and politicians who wish to improve their education. It is a valuable contribution to the continuing debate about why and how legal principle should protect the basic right to private passion whether individuals choose to spend their evenings with their boyfriend, with their girlfriend, or with their stamp collection.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



COUNSEL

DAVID
PANNICK QC

Election on the menu

ELECTION fever has already begun to take hold at the Law Society with the announcement by David Keating, a council member, that he will stand for the deputy vice-presidency at the next election. Mr Keating is a firm supporter of Martin Mears, the current president.

Meanwhile, Mr Mears has been spreading his message to the profession in person. Last week he was in Manchester, where he was reported to have made short work of a hearty cooked breakfast during a morning meeting with 50 members of the local Law Society.

By all accounts, he made a good impression. Anne Kershaw, the local president, says his "fresh approach" to the job is welcome.

● Labour's competition policy will be spelt out for the first time tomorrow by Kim Howells, the party's competition spokesman, at a conference on bid lobbying spon-

sored by Lovell White Durand and the Public Policy Unit. John Taylor, the Corporate Affairs Minister, will speak for the Government. Details: 0171-828 6088.

China progress

THE BAR is hailing as "encouraging progress" recent reforms in China to the criminal justice system, including



Peter Goldsmith, QC, visits

new rights for defendants and access to independent lawyers at an early stage after arrest.

Peter Goldsmith, QC, former Bar chairman, said the news comes after a series of visits by Bar leaders, including himself and Robert Seabrook, QC, his predecessor. If adopted, the reforms — making the system more adversarial — would be the first changes to China's criminal procedural law for 20 years.

Ethics check

A NEW institute has opened in Liverpool dedicated to tackling the thorny ethical issues surrounding medicine and the law, such as euthanasia. The Institute of Medicine Law and Bio-Ethics, attached to the university, is the first of its kind in the country and plans to teach a masters degree in the subject.

Carol Prescott, the administrator, says the institute is working on six research projects, but expects the number

to grow as doctors and lawyers battle with the myriad ethical problems linked to medicine that are becoming more acute as resources to fund care dwindle. The institute is holding its inaugural conference at Liverpool's Adelphi Hotel on April 17.

Helping women

HARMAN & Harman, a Canterbury law firm, has been granted leave to take judicial review proceedings against the Legal Aid Board over the lack of legal aid for victims of domestic violence and intimidation.

Restrictions were introduced in 1994 and many women are now excluded from the scheme. Sarah Harman, senior partner, says: "Legal aid is not available, for instance, when a woman's former partner molests her by such means as telephone calls or stalking her at home or work. To restrict legal aid to situations where a woman has already suffered more than one recent serious assault is harsh and — we believe — unlawful."

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The decision by American firms to expand their London presence has helped. These firms recognise the imperative of attracting top quality candidates to their London offices and to have credibility. They are investing substantial sums to gain a foothold overseas, and will therefore pay above the market rate, and offer partnership status, to ensure that their investments succeed. The same logic underlies the offer being made by the Big Six accountancy firms which have decided to establish their own law firms. They, too, need to offer partnership status to attract the right people. Innovation and opportunity go together.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY MARCH 26 1996

Chris Barton looks at the progress of a Bill with serious implications for the family

Divorced from the facts

Should busy divorce practitioners bother to keep abreast of the convolutions of the Family Law Bill, which reached the House of Commons yesterday after its out-of-town tour of the Lords? Or should they see what it looks like — if anything — after the Royal Assent? Perhaps they should wait until after the two years of pre-implementation trials. After all, what was the point of bothering with the 1991 Child Support Act before it came into force in 1993, or the 1989 Children Act before its 1991 activation?

In fact, family lawyers are not indifferent to the sight of divorce blowing about in the parliamentary wind. Their view of what is, and is not, important in the Bill is likely to be the very opposite of political, media and public perceptions.

These last are concerned with the abolition of fault, and with the length of the period for "reflection and consideration", whereas divorce professionals are more worried about the de-lawyering of the process in favour of mediation.

It is going to be difficult for lawyers to persuade people of their impartiality in that respect: perhaps that leaves the importance of pension-splitting as the only common ground. In the House of Lords, Baroness Young remarked that "One can always find a lawyer to support any point of view that one puts forward, the more one pays them, the better they do it."

On the other hand, the Children Act Advisory Committee Report for 1994-95 spoke of family cases being conducted by "young and inexperienced barristers". Yet the cry of individual divorcing spouses, certainly those who can afford it, is likely to remain "Get me the best lawyer," rather than "Get the best mediator."

The pre-West End season in the Lords failed to iron out many of the difficulties, despite their Lordships' experience in legislating for divorce in 1670 in favour of one of their own number, Lord Roos. His 1996 successors turned their attention to the question of which harms children the most: their parents' unhappy marriage, their separation or the divorce. It now appears that the members of the Lower House, spurred by conscience or by a desire to parade as supporters of the family, are to be given a free vote to select 18 months or even two years as the waiting period in such cases, despite the Lord Chancellor's overall preference for only one year.

Lord Stoddart mentioned American disenchantment with their own previously liberalised divorce laws. A similar transatlantic retrenching is reported in connection with "no fault" divorces. In 1969, the "happy divorce movement" in California claimed that the abolition of fault in divorce would save marriages, and yet nine states of the



Norman Rockwell

union are now restoring it, in the face of an average 26 per cent rise in dissolutions in those states that had done away with it.

Here Lord Ashbourne pointed out that the Family Law Bill, which would excise the already notional ground of "irretrievable behaviour", is more concerned with "no reason" rather than with "no fault" divorce. As family lawyers wearily point out to anyone who will still listen, we have already had the latter for more than 20 years, ever since the inaptly named "special procedure" was applied to all undefended divorce actions. The allegations in these petitions are not

tried, effectively allowing for immediate divorce by consent.

It has become *de rigueur* to say that every "easing" of the laws since 1857 onwards has caused an explosion in the divorce rate, but Dr Martin Richards, of the Cambridge Centre for Family Research, argues that the recent (1960s-70s) worldwide reforms were a response to the increased demand for divorce, and not its cause.

In any case, the annual number of divorces in England and Wales has oscillated around 150,000-plus for the past ten years. And the special procedure has produced a median time of six months for

adultery and "behaviour" petitions — which currently account for three quarters of all divorces. Some take as little as three months.

So there is no increasing demand for divorce, the Bill will increase the time taken (even with the 12-month period) and far from people waiting to avail themselves of it, they will be best advised to hurry up before it comes into force. The newspaper delivered at my servants' quarters is even suggesting that this factor is influencing certain particularly delicate negotiations that are currently in progress.

● The author is Reader in Law at Staffordshire University.

Young lawyers share expertise

Edward Fennell praises the British Council's European lawyers' scheme

The British Council may be in financial crisis, but it is still reckoned to be doing a good job for British lawyers. This was brought home yesterday when Macfarlanes, Clyde & Co and Wilde Sapte and other London firms took on some young European lawyers under a scheme operated by the British Council for the past 25 years.

In the next three months the European lawyers will learn about English law while contributing their expertise to the host firm. By the time they leave at the end of June, professional and personal relationships should have been formed that will serve both sides well for years.

Norton Rose, for example, will be looking after Eva Bigalke, a German lawyer. Celia Staples, the firm's head of personnel, says: "Germany is a country in which we have no office but lots of clients. We invited Eva to join us because she has relevant commercial experience and should be able to give us useful insights into the German scene. In return she will receive a thorough introduction to English law and have the opportunity to observe how a major firm like Norton Rose operates."

There are fears about the project's future

The benefits are two-way. Though the visiting lawyers are young, they are all well qualified and already have already carved out impressive track records. Getting on to the scheme is very competitive and all have gone through a rigorous selection process in their local British Council office before being admitted.

Their standard of English is high. Emma Richards, the professional development executive at Richards Butler, says: "Taking part in the Young Lawyers Scheme is a good investment for this firm. Many of the lawyers who have taken part go on to take up senior positions later on. It is a very good way for us to build up a network of contacts

across Europe with up-and-coming lawyers."

One of the firms enthusiastically taking part this year is the Anglo-German firm of Dabelstein & Passchl. Based within sight of London Bridge, it claims to be the first firm of its type to be multi-jurisdictional and offers German and English law as standard. It joined the programme, however, in order to build its links with Scandinavia. Christopher Chauncy, a partner, says: "As a shipping firm, one of the most important territories for us is Norway. Through the council scheme last year, we were able to take on a Norwegian lawyer for a very successful attachment, so we are doing the same this year."

Though not fee-earners during their stay, the young Europeans are expected to get involved in real work. Mr Chauncy discovered that his young Norwegian last year was able to help with details of Norwegian law that would otherwise have been time-consuming to research. In return, the young lawyers gain a wealth of experience in Europe's legal capital, which enhances their career prospects.

The scheme has developed an alumni network. There are many benefits. At the Law Society in London a fortnight ago Deloitte Touche, the accountants, launched *Law profile of Italy*, a book on Italian law written by a group of Italian lawyers who were former members of the scheme.

Backed by Martin Rose, from the British Council's Rome office, the lawyers had been brought together to produce the guide to coincide with Italy's European Union presidency.

Faced with the substantial cuts in the British Council's budget due to take effect next month, however, there are fears about the scheme's future. Ms Staples says: "We would lose this scheme at our peril."

WOMEN LAWYERS

THREE leading women Queen's Counsel — Helena Kennedy, Cherie Booth and Laura Cox — are taking part in the second Woman Lawyer conference to be held on April 20. Other leading participants include Mr Justice Sedley, Mrs Justice Arden, Martin Meaux, the Law Society president, and David Perry-Davey, QC. A few places remain for the one-day conference, sponsored by The Times.

● Details: Blair Communications Marketing, 0171-222 9731.

□ Women barristers are expanding their formal network through the Association of Women Barristers. The association is setting up groups — initially in Manchester, Nottingham and Southampton — for women practising on circuit; meetings have already been fixed for those on the Western Circuit (Southampton, April 19) and on the Midlands and Oxford Circuit (Nottingham, May 3). The Bar has six circuits representing barristers outside London.

● Details: Ms Hewson, 071-404 1866.

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given by

Sir Colin Marshall

Sir Colin Marshall is Chairman of British Airways Plc and President-designate of the CBI

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Any inquiries about the lecture should be made to the Lecture Secretary at 13 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2 on 0171-404-4800

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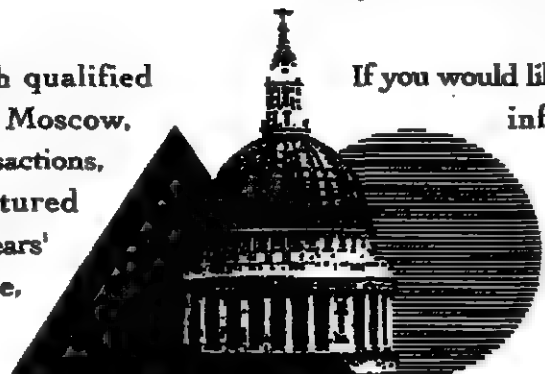
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£17,877 - £19,704 pa inc.

This senior position carries responsibility for supporting the Principal Corporate Lawyer in procuring and monitoring all legal services required by the Authority (including those delivered by the in-house team following competitive tendering) and advising on all matters concerning contract law (including public procurement), statutory powers and local government law. The work includes drafting contracts, contract procedures and disputes, contract compliance and competitive tendering.

We are looking for a highly qualified solicitor or barrister with at least 4 years' post-qualifying experience and up-to-date knowledge and practical experience in those areas of the law relating particularly to contracts and procurement. Good communication and presentation skills are essential as the duties include advising officers and members of the Authority at the highest levels. The Legal Branch relies on up-to-date computing facilities and case management software and you will have keyboard experience or be prepared to acquire the necessary skills quickly.

In return we offer an excellent package commensurate with the nature and status of this post. You are likely to work a pattern of three days one week and two days the next week.

For further details and an application form contact: Ms Eleanor Douglas, Selection Section, Room 809 Hampton House, 20 Albert Embankment, SE1 or telephone on 0171-587 6188 quoting reference FB58.

Closing date: 12th April 1996.

This is a politically restricted post within the provisions of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

We would particularly welcome applications from women, black and ethnic minorities who are currently under represented at this level within the organisation.

London Fire Brigade
TO PROTECT AND SERVE

Supporting the Local Authorities

Major International Energy Company

LEGAL ADVISER

No Energy Experience Required
Outstanding Remuneration Package

Our Client is a key division of one of the world's largest vertically integrated energy companies, with revenues of \$9.2 billion per annum, world-wide assets of \$14 billion and a 19% compound annual growth rate in earnings over the last five years.

A pivotal sector of the group's global operations, our Client is pursuing a progressive merchant business strategy in the UK and Europe. Our Client now seeks an additional lawyer to join its close knit legal team at its Central London offices. You will advise, in a national and international context, on all aspects of the division's projects and commercial ventures, which include energy infrastructure development, electrical power generation and marketing, the purchase, sale and processing of energy commodities, energy industry financing transactions and risk management activities.

You will have gained at least 6 years' post-qualification transactional experience in a major City law firm, and will have a corporate/commercial or finance background (no energy experience is necessary). You will be a hardened negotiator, pro-active, imaginative and capable of working closely with senior management in this fast moving environment.

In return, you will be offered excellent career opportunities and an outstanding salary, bonus and benefits package.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams or Stephen Rodney on 0171-485 4062 (0171-266 5601 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Commerce and Industry Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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SPECIAL PROJECT LAWYER

LEADERS IN THE SHORT-TERM MARKET

Time for a change? Consider this . . .

CORPORATE FINANCE

Corporate Finance department of City firm require a solicitor with 3-4 years' ppe to join them immediately for a 3-6 month contract. Suitable candidates should have had previous experience in mergers and acquisitions and a working knowledge of the Yellow Book. Ref 25966

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

1-3 year qualified solicitor required to assist busy company commercial department of medium-sized West End firm. Candidates should have a broad range of experience in this field. Contract would be to start as soon as possible until September. Ref 26926

COMMERCIAL

Major telecommunications company seeks solicitor/barrister for office in South West. Candidates must have at least 3 years' ppe, broad based commercial experience (telecoms not necessary but would be an advantage), and be able to work without supervision. Immediate start for 3-6 months. Ref 26906

PLAINTIFF PERSONAL INJURY

Medium-sized commercial law firm seeks an assistant solicitor to join their busy and expanding personal injury department. Up-to-date experience in road traffic accident/plaintiff work required. To start as soon as possible. Ref 26571

EMPLOYMENT

Leading City firm require solicitor to join their employment department for maternity leave cover. Candidates must have 3-7 years' ppe and heavyweight employment experience, with an emphasis on contentious matters. Excellent opportunity for first class solicitor. Ref 26930

EC/COMPETITION

City firm need solicitor, with at least 4 years' ppe, to cover a maternity leave. Heavyweight experience in this area, together with a strong private practice background is essential. Work covered includes IT and telecoms, transport, newspapers and brewing. Ref 26971

COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS

A leading media group, based in the North West, need a solicitor/barrister to join them from April to December. Candidates must be able to handle a broad range of commercial work including contracts, trade marks, employment issues and company secretarial matters. Ref 26959

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Major energy company require a solicitor to join them for a two year period. Candidates must have at least 3 years' experience in commercial property and planning matters. Ref 27070

For further information please call Nicky Rutherford-Jones or Emma Hopkins on 0171-405 6062 (0171-330 0682 or 0181-540 2381 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

SPL is a QD Company

BARCLAYS COMPANY SECRETARY

London To £45,000 + Car + Benefits

Barclays is one of the largest financial services groups in the United Kingdom. It also has a substantial international business and in total employs 100,000 people.

Due to internal re-organisation a new role has been created for a company secretary to manage a team which provides professional secretarial services to the company's principal subsidiaries. In addition to the broad-ranging company secretarial workload the team is responsible for setting secretarial standards for the worldwide group and for providing continuing support to UK business management.

This is a role which requires a dynamic individual with not only the ability to handle a challenging workload but also the vision to adapt to new developments. The successful candidate will therefore probably be a graduate and an ACIS who has obtained between 5 and 10 years company secretarial experience in a plc and is looking for promotion to a more senior role.

TAYLOR & ROOT

LEGAL RECRUITMENT ADVISERS

If you wish to apply please send your CV to Nick Hedley at Taylor Root, 179 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4DD or contact him on 0171 415 2828. This assignment is being handled exclusively by Taylor Root.

Compensation for the victims of violent crime

Members of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act 1995 paved the way for the introduction in April of a new tariff-based criminal injuries compensation scheme, under which victims of violent crime will submit applications for consideration by the new Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. There will be a right of appeal to a new independent body, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Appeals Panel. The Panel will have a quasi-judicial role involving the disbursement of substantial sums of taxpayers' money.

You will sit - with at least one other adjudicator - to determine appeals; make records of decisions, and assist generally in the conduct of the Panel's business. You will be expected to commit between 40 and 50 days per year to the role for up to a week at a time. As panels will sit at regional centres throughout Great Britain, you must be prepared to travel and stay away from home when necessary. Although the hearings programme will be decided well in advance, some requests for attendance are likely to come at short notice and flexibility will be needed.



Your suitability for the post will be indicated by your high level achievement - for example through a successful senior career in law, medicine, commerce, management or public service. You must have well-developed skills of analysis and judgement, since you will need to interpret complex information, probe evidence, examine witnesses and come to sound, defensible conclusions. Your excellent communication skills will be an important factor in allowing you rapidly to develop rapport with people from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Your fee will be £270 for each hearing day. Reasonable expenses will be met. Some preparatory work will be necessary, but this will not attract additional remuneration.

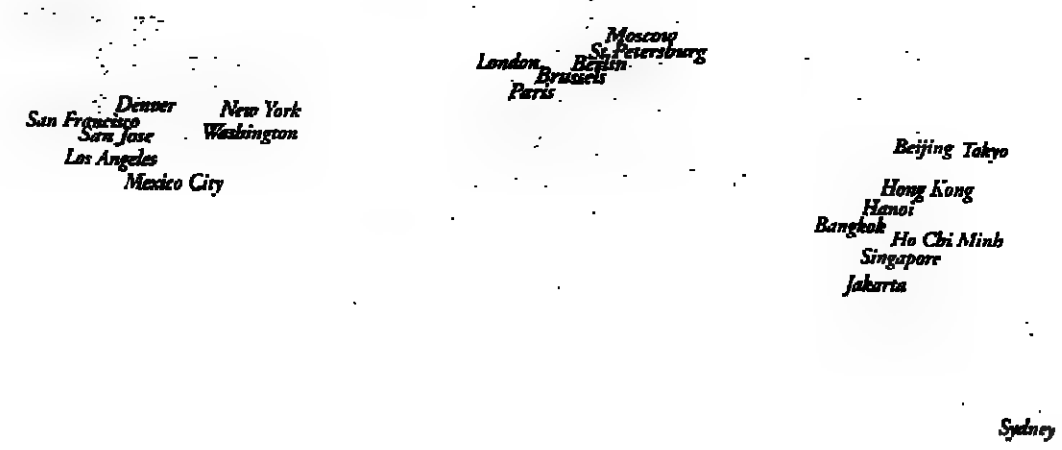
For further details and an application form (to be returned by 12th April 1996), please telephone Recruitment & Assessment Services on Basingstoke (01256) 468551 (24 hours) or fax 01256 846374/846660. Please quote reference B2854.

We welcome applications from candidates irrespective of ethnic origin, religious belief, gender, disability, sexual orientation or other irrelevant factors.

RAS

Which International Law Firm...

- Was the first foreign law firm to open an office in London (1962);
- Has concrete plans to increase substantially the size of its 27-lawyer London office as part of a long-term commitment of developing London as a main European centre;
- Advised on the largest single inward investment into the UK in 1995;
- Intends to expand rapidly its English solicitor population to 40% of its professionals worldwide;
- Has a full service office in London with particular strengths in banking and finance, corporate and commercial law, funds, arbitration and litigation, real property, energy and natural resources, privatisations and telecommunications/information technology?



QD For further information on the firm and what it can offer you, in complete confidence, please contact Christopher Sweeney or Gareth Quarry on 0171-405 6062 (0171-960 6527 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

COUDERT BROTHERS

INFORMATION PROFESSIONALS

Corporate/Private Client Tax Corporate/Commercial Banking/Asset Finance Media/IP

The concept of professional support to fee earners within law firms has dramatically changed in recent years. Such has been our City firm client's commitment to this area that it has invested considerable resources to establish the function and promote it throughout the firm.

Opportunities now exist for individuals with expertise in one or more of the above areas to join the team which is dedicated to providing a service of the highest calibre. The roles will include maintaining and updating the computerised know-how database, updating fee earners on relevant legal developments and producing newsletters and bulletins for internal and external dissemination.

Successful candidates will either be fee earners with demonstrable interest in information/know-how work or information professionals with legal knowledge and/or experience. Other pre-requisites are a robust personality, a solutions orientated approach and excellent interpersonal skills.

The salary and benefits packages will be highly attractive and flexible to accommodate applicants wishing to work part-time or on a job share basis.

For further information in complete confidence please contact Jonathan Brenner or Yasmin Phillips on 0171-377 0510 (0171-376 4968 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential Fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail jonathan@zmb.co.uk

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INTERNATIONAL US FIRM COMPANY/COMMERCIAL PARTNER To £200,000 London

Our Client, a major US-based international law firm with a long-standing presence in London, seeks an enterprising company/commercial solicitor who will be attracted by the firm's unique selling points:-

- An earnings related remuneration structure which clearly reflects your contribution to the firm;
- The support of like-minded entrepreneurial and ambitious practitioners;
- An international client base; and
- Local firm independence within the framework of a major international firm.

Likely to be a partner at a leading firm, you have an opportunity to join a corporate/commercial practice established in the international/cross-border arena. With an already developed client base, you will reap the full rewards of your success.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams or Christopher Sweeney on 0171-405 6062 (0171-266 5601 or 0181-960 6527 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail greg@qdemon.co.uk

QD
QUARRY DOUGALL

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Corporate & Commercial Corporate & Commercial

Corporate & Commercial City - £Exceptional

Our Client is one of the most dynamic and progressive commercial practices in the City.

In the seven years since its inception, the firm has undergone rapid expansion and now offers expertise in every discipline of the Law to a domestic and international clientbase.

The Corporate and Commercial Department is now entering the next phase of its development, creating an opportunity for an enterprising and marketing oriented Solicitor to augment a team committed to providing a quality service at the leading edge.

The ideal candidate will have at least 7PQE and a proven track record at medium sized or larger City firms. He/she will be ambitious to play an integral role in the development of both the Department and the firm as a whole.

Rewards for the right candidate are comparable with and potentially superior to those offered by the largest City practices. To be considered for this exciting role, contact Simon Lipson, a Solicitor.

LIPSON LLOYD-JONES - Legal Recruitment
127 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BT
Telephone: 0171 600 1690 Fax: 0171 600 1972

LIPSON LLOYD-JONES

Head of Legal Company Secretary

Head of Legal Department International Bank - City

Our client is a major bank with offices and commercial interests worldwide.

They now seek to recruit a Lawyer with around 10 PQE to head up a small Legal Department based in the City. He/She will advise on the full range of the bank's commercial activities including fund management, stock lending, repo, swap and IFMA agreements, derivatives, equity syndication, IT and insurance matters.

It is envisaged that the successful candidate will eventually become Company Secretary and therefore skills and experience in this area are essential.

The ideal candidate will have significant relevant in-house experience although applicants from the Banking or Company/Commercial Department of a leading firm will be considered. He/she will possess strong communication and negotiation skills together with the drive and dynamism necessary to succeed at the very highest level.

To be considered for this position, contact Lucy Boyd, Head of LLJ In-House.

LIPSON LLOYD-JONES - Legal Recruitment
127 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BT
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LIPSON LLOYD-JONES

Commercial Lawyer

Financial Services City

Attractive Package

Rare opportunity to join core legal team at the Group Head Office of prestigious UK-based financial services group with exciting plans for domestic and international expansion.

THE POSITION
• Report to Director of Legal Services. Provide effective advice, guidance and support to line management.
• Focus on reviewing, drafting and negotiating high value, complex commercial contracts with significant IT bias.
• Advise on all aspects of legal matters of large financial services group including company/financial law, venture capital, investment management and financial services legislation.

QUALIFICATIONS
• Solicitor with 2-4 years' PQE, gained in private practice or in-house. Strong analytical skills.
• Broad experience of general commercial work, ideally with exposure to IT documentation.
• Excellent communication skills to win respect at all levels.
• Committed team member yet capable of operating autonomously. Commercial acumen.

Please send full cv, stating salary, ref LG60208T, to NBS, 54 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6LX

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LAW OFFICES

SHOOK, HARDY & BACON

Corporate Finance & Banking

6 + Years p.q.e.

We are a US-based international law firm with offices in Kansas City, Houston, London, Milan and Zurich, having over 250 lawyers worldwide. Our firm's London office is organised as a multinational partnership, staffed by both UK and US qualified partners.

In response to client demands, we are seeking to appoint a UK qualified solicitor who will have excellent partnership prospects and an important role in the further development and management of the firm's London based Corporate Finance and Banking practice.

We are seeking candidates with the following attributes:

- 6 or more years post qualification experience gained at a major City firm (required for consideration).
- Extremely strong client relationship and practice management skills.

• Extensive experience in structuring, negotiating and executing complex cross-border transactions, with particular emphasis on large syndicated financings, project finance and debt and equity offerings. Some M&A and joint venture experience would also be highly valuable.

• Contacts in the UK and European financial and business communities and the ambition to take a significant role in the expansion of the firm's practice.

• European language skills would be helpful, but are not a prerequisite.

The position offers a competitive salary and interesting work in a friendly team-orientated environment. There will be the opportunity for travel.

Written applications, which will be treated in strict confidence, should be sent by 19 April 1996 to S. Thornton, Shook, Hardy & Bacon, Manning House, 22 Carlisle Place, London SW1P 1JA.

COMPETITION LAWYERS

City firm seeks partner and 3-5 year qualified assistant

The Competition and Regulation Group at our City firm client has handled some of the highest profile legal work in this sector in recent years including several MMC references, regulatory and related EC law aspects of major acquisitions, disposals and flotations and proceedings before the European Courts.

Under the leadership of two of the City's most well known names, the Group, through its presence in London and Brussels, is set to benefit significantly from the firm's decision to expand strategically in the media and communications and corporate finance and banking sectors.

A further partner and an assistant at the 3-5 year level are now sought to play key roles in the Group. The successful candidates must be able to demonstrate genuine enthusiasm for this type of work, a high level of technical skill and the personal attributes, energy and self-motivation to merit a fast track to, or (in the case of the more senior appointment) immediate, partnership.

To reflect the firm's long term commitment to this key area, the remuneration packages for both positions will be highly attractive.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Jonathan Brenner or Yaelin Phillips on 0171-377 0510 (0181-940 6848 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail jonathan@zmb.co.uk

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COMMERCIAL UNION Marine & Aviation

IN-HOUSE LEGAL

Commercial Union is the UK's largest composite insurer and one of the world's largest underwriters of marine insurance business. Its Group Marine operation, based in the City, covers a multi-line international spread of business, with a broad portfolio of Marine Hull, Cargo, Energy and Liability risks, the bulk of which are written in the London Market.

A new role has been created, reporting to Group Marine management, to provide a comprehensive range of in-house legal advisory services.

The main responsibilities include:

- setting up and advising on the use of a panel of external specialist providers of legal and technical claims adjusting and surveying services worldwide;
- providing primary in-house legal assessment, and advising on the progress of all cases involving actual or potential litigation;
- providing legal advisory services generally, on all aspects relating to underwriting, claims and reinsurance matters.

This is a challenging opportunity to set up the role, and will suit a creative and commercially minded lawyer. A background of litigation from either private practice or a similar in-house role is required, together with at least 5 years' experience of complex international marine insurance business, preferably in the London Market. Experience of US energy/liability business is highly desirable.

For further information in complete confidence, please contact our consultants, Lisa Hicks and Jonathan Brenner, on 0171-377 0510 (0171-735 5548 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Zarak Macrae Brenner, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail lisa@zmb.co.uk This assignment is being handled exclusively by ZMB. All direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them.

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Corporate Partner

Lester Aldridge is one of the largest and most innovative commercial firms on the South Coast. Based in Bournemouth, the firm has a corporate-style management structure and is divided into a number of specialist units offering expert and commercial solutions to the problems of its national/international business clients.

The commercial department now has an outstanding opportunity for a senior corporate lawyer between 10 and 15 years qualified with the personality and experience to play a key role in the further development of its corporate work and the ability to make an immediate impression on the regional market place.

The ideal candidate will have

- a track record in business acquisitions & disposals, corporate finance (including MBO's and MBI's) and experience of acting for quoted companies
- experience gained at a first rate regional practice or a City firm
- an established reputation with introducers of transactional work
- a proven ability to attract quality work

In return, the successful candidate will be assured of excellent prospects, remuneration and quality of life.



For further information or an initial discussion in strict confidence, call Liz Nease on 0171 490 1711 (Fax 0171 831 4184) or write to her at Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. This assignment is being dealt with on an exclusive basis by Graham Gill & Young. Only applications made through Graham Gill & Young will be considered for this position.

Lester Aldridge

LONDON POSITIONS

TELECOMS PARTNER

£125-210,000
Medium sized London firm with well developed overheads and extremely young partner profile seeks to expand its already heavily successful telecommunications division through the recruitment of another specialist in the field. Clients include major telecom providers, UK and foreign utility companies and technology companies in the telecom sector. Ideal candidate is a senior solicitor or junior partner specialising in this work. (Ref:5749)

SENIOR BANKING

£100,000
Leading US investment bank seeks 4 years' plus qualified banking lawyer to join team which advises on the whole range of the bank's activities. The law of work will be banking on capital markets, with a heavy emphasis on corporate financing and development of new products and trading strategies. Supportive team which encourages pro-activity. Experience will include a background in derivatives. Applicants may come from other banks or private practice. (Ref:5552)

CAPITAL MARKETS

£70,000
International investment bank seeks capital markets lawyers to join in-house team undertaking sale of capital markets and structured finance. Candidates will be given immediate responsibility for specific core areas. Work is transaction driven in a highly charged environment. There will be minimal SRA documentation. A robust, coping personality will be a necessity. Languages an advantage. Financial rewards outstanding. (Ref:5581)

IT LONDON & THAMES VALLEY

£70,000
Several opportunities exist at this leading practice with excellent quality IT work in its London and Thames Valley offices. Clients include high profile software and media communications companies and service providers. Dynamic solicitors at the 1-3 year level are sought. Will, ideally, have some relevant experience in the IT sector although energetic and talented commercial lawyers with a genuine interest in this area will also be considered. (Ref:5212)

MEDICINE/ENTERTAINMENT

£40,000
Leading entertainment practice seeks media lawyer with a minimum of 3 years' exp to join its highly regarded practice. A genuine interest in the industry, combined with enthusiasm and technical skills, are essential as is the ability to interact well with clients and clients alike. The practice has the leading commercial media law, film and TV and media and entertainment law with many major competitors. (Ref:5534)

INSOLVENCY PARTNER

£100-240,000
Major international City firm seeks to enhance insolvency expertise before the next recession. As a result, an opening exists for a highly rated non-accidental City insolvency practitioner to join one of the firm's leading insolvency teams in London which is regularly involved in "big ticket" corporate restructurings and re-financing as well as major corporate collapses. Ideal candidate will be a partner, aged 35-45, with excellent connections with insolvency practitioners. (Ref:5596)

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

£60,000
Litigation specialist, 2-4 years qualified, sought by one of the largest international practices with a growing UK presence. Candidate will include strong academic background and experience with leading City firm. A knowledge of European languages would be ideal. Highly competitive salary and benefits package. (Ref:5750)

CORPORATE TAX

£40,000
Medium-sized London firm with excellent reputation in specific sectors seeks corporate tax specialist for small team. Will support general managers and assist with other corporate work and provide tax input on employment, IP and telecommunications. Limited amount of personal and private client work. Would suit a lawyer becoming overqualified at a larger firm seeking a broader role with immediate and varied client contact. (Ref:5602)

IN-HOUSE LITIGATION

£40-50,000
International commodities and trading company seeks an in-house lawyer with experience of litigation, arbitration, shipping, international trade and commodities work. Will play a commercial role in advising senior management on international affairs and disputes. The environment is dynamic, with young managers and a forward thinking strategy for expansion. Opportunities to travel and also to grow the legal function. (Ref:5746)

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY

£60,000
An in-house lawyer is sought by the international management consultancy to join existing legal team providing support to the consultancy practice. It is a leader in technology and organisational change services. With 4 years' experience of international technology and business law, the lawyer will advise on software development, systems integration and outsourcing and other commercial issues. (Ref:5649)

For further information regarding in-house vacancies please contact: Lisa Hicks on 0171-377 0510 (0171-735 5548 evenings/weekends). For private practice vacancies please contact: Yaelin Phillips, Miranda Smyth or Jonathan Brenner on 0171-377 0510 (0171-735 5548 evenings/weekends). Alternatively write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail yaelin@zmb.co.uk

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Commercial Property

Home Counties

Our clients are a long established and highly successful commercial firm who, as part of their strategy for growth, now seek to recruit an experienced Solicitor to join their Commercial Property Department.

Operating from the firm's offices in the southern Home Counties, the successful candidate will be responsible for handling a range of high quality transactional, funding and development work. He/she is likely to have a number of established client contacts in addition to well developed marketing skills.

The ideal candidate will have at least four years' post qualification experience encompassing all aspects of commercial property work and either a City or large provincial practice background. There are definite partnership prospects on offer for the right candidate.

To discuss this important role in confidence, contact Simon Lipson, a Solicitor.

LIPSON LLOYD-JONES - Legal Recruitment

127 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BT

Telephone: 0171 600 1690 Fax: 0171 600 1972



A Time for Change!

CITY AND THE SOUTH

Corporate/Commercial - to £50,000
Solicitor with 3-5PQE sought by leading firm to handle, inter alia, Yellow Book, M&A and joint venture work. Call Lynne McCarroll.

Information Technology - to £55,000
Solicitor with up to 5PQE sought by leading firm to handle IP, EC competition and commercial anti-trust work.

Shipping Litigation - to £35,000
Several firms seek Lawyers with 2-4PQE to handle mainly charterparty and maritime arbitrations.

Corporate Insurance - to £45,000
Solicitor with 3-5PQE sought to handle regulatory, transactional and product work relating to insurance companies & Lloyd's market. Will retain litigators seeking a change.

Banking/Finance - £50,000
US firm seeks Banking Lawyers from 2-5PQE to handle project finance and securitisation to work in a unique team based environment.

IN-HOUSE

Employment - £35,000 + 5 Coast
Solicitor with 3-5PQE sought by leading firm to handle contentious/non-contentious work. Ideal opportunity for City Lawyer seeking relocation.

Comms. Property - to £25,000 Cambs
Large firm seeks Lawyer 2-3PQE with development experience. Must live close by or be willing to relocate.

Co/Co - to £28,000 Hants
Dynamic Solicitor up to 5PQE sought by expanding firm to handle a wide ranging caseload including JVs, MBO's, and commercial agreements.

Ins. Litigation - to £28,000 S Coast
Major practice seeks Solicitor 2-3PQE to handle general liability/professional negligence work. They also seek a plaintiff personal injury litigator 2PQE.

Construction - to £50,000 City
Leading international firm has new position for construction Lawyer with 4PQE. Work will include both contentious/non-contentious matters.

PRIVATE CLIENT

IT - to £80,000 + 6 hrs London
High calibre senior Lawyer sought by major international hi-tech company to handle commercial contracts for the facilities management group.

Fin. Services - to £45K Home Counties
Sole legal adviser sought to handle general legal matters including international market development for highly successful group.

Compliance - to £50,000 + 6 hrs
Lawyers from NQ-5PQE sought by leading financial institution to handle LITF, Stock Exchange, SFA and disclosures work.

Bank - to £35,000 City
Commercial Lawyer with 3-4PQE sought to handle consumer credit, advertising, product development, data protection, dynamic personality paramount.

Documentation - to £35,000 + 6 hrs
International bank seeks Lawyers to handle Euro-bonds, MTNs and documentation work.

Contact Marianne Ferguson, Lynne McCarroll or Marian Lloyd-Jones

LIPSON LLOYD-JONES - Legal Recruitment

127 Cheapside, London EC2V 6BT Tel: 0171 600 1690 Fax: 0171 600 1972

Pensions Shipping Insurance Compliance



Legal Adviser



£ Excellent Based: Swindon

Galileo International operates one of the world's largest computer systems, providing sophisticated reservations services to the world's airlines, car hire companies, hotel companies etc. This position will be based at the company's European headquarters in a modern technology park on the outskirts of Swindon, conveniently located adjacent to junction 16 of the M4.

The role is one of providing legal advice to Galileo International staff at the company's three locations in Swindon, Chicago and Denver in connection with the company's global business. The key requirement for this position is to ensure global compliance with Data Protection legislation. A detailed working knowledge will therefore be required of European, and particularly UK, Data Protection legislation. The position will also involve ensuring compliance with regulations applicable in different parts of the world relating to Computer Reservations Systems. It is not anticipated that candidates will have any previous knowledge of these regulations but general knowledge and experience of working with regulatory bodies, particularly the European Commission, is important. The role will also involve ensuring compliance with sanctions legislation, although again previous experience of industry sanctions regulations is not anticipated. Finally, the provision of general legal advice and assistance in connection with the commercial activities of the global business is necessary.

We are looking for a mature individual, capable of working independently but nevertheless able to operate as part of a small legal team based partially at Swindon and partially in the US. An appropriate legal qualification is required and it is unlikely that an individual with less than five years experience of working in a legal department will have the necessary maturity to take on this role.

Occasional travel to particularly Europe and the US may be involved. An excellent package and benefits will be offered, which is negotiable according to experience, in keeping with the company's reputation as an industry leader. Assistance with relocation may be available in appropriate circumstances.

Please write, with full CV, indicating current salary, to: Mrs Lorraine Wilson, Human Resources, Galileo International, Galileo Centre Europe, Windmill Hill, Swindon SN5 6PH.

H.M. Coroner for the East Riding and Hull

Coroner's District

£40,674 - £45,555

This is a post of full-time Coroner. You must be a qualified Barrister, Solicitor or Medical Practitioner qualified under the medical acts, with at least 5 years standing in your profession.

It is desirable that you have experience as either a Coroner, Deputy Coroner or Assistant Deputy Coroner. Experience of court work is essential.

The person we are looking for must have a sound intellect and judgement, clarity of thought, a sympathetic but firm manner and a commitment to the public sector.

Management experience and a management qualification are desirable.

Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Section, Municipal Office, Trippett Street, George Street, Hull, HU1 3AA, telephone (01482) 55227 (24 hours answering service) where they should be returned by 12 NOON, WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL 1996.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

ASSIZE COURT CHAMBERS

Telephone 0117 926 4587 Fax 0117 922 6835 (24 hours)

DX 78134 Bristol

Chambers invites applications from Criminal practitioners of C.P.S. Grade 4 or equivalent standing to undertake Prosecution and defence work in this Western Circuit set of 22 full tenants.

Applications and enquiries in confidence to Julian Howells (Chambers recruitment Secretary)

NAME _____

[illegible]

Paul ready to join Broncos' charge

A taste for the spider

World Service

Tonight on BBC2, children sharing their
suites & cornets.



מבוא

Special pleading from a cash-strapped force

You may reasonably have thought that a documentary about the role of the Specials in policing Britain would be a relief from the Channel 4 cameras to Derbyshire should have been sufficient warning.

Thus it was that last night, halfway through *Cutting Edge: Special Force*, we came upon Edwina and her village Special Constable, standing face to face on the hearthrug in front of a log fire. She opined that they had not met before. If this was a nudge or a wink, the Special Constable did us all a favour by ignoring it.

He had in fact stopped her car late one night in the course of a routine check and asked her if she had been drinking. The question was perfectly timed to induce panic in a mere mortal: Edwina was driving her husband home after dinner at a brewery.

Edwina owned up to "two halves of lager, four hours' rest" and the constable decided, on the basis of her general demeanour, that there would be no need for a breath test. Presented with the chance of 15 minutes of tabloid fame ("Edwina couldn't even get drunk in a brewery"), the constable had blown it.

Derbyshire has one of Britain's more controversial police forces. The national target is for 20 per cent of all police to be Specials by the end of the century, but Derbyshire already has 25 per cent.

That is partly because Derbyshire is underfunded (though that claim was not explained last night) and has failed its Home Office test three years in a row. Therefore the force is giving Specials a bigger share of policing because Specials come free.

The Police Federation objects, but then it would. A sergeant from the federation said that whereas

regulars had ten months of training, the Specials had ten days. This was all very well for routine patrol and traffic duty, but in his view the Specials were being given tasks for which they were unfit.

Colleen Denby, a Special who runs a cake shop, was followed around by the cameras and demonstrated that whatever she might lack in experience was compensated for in common sense. She met an interesting range of drunks: "Some are quite cheerful and just want to hold your hand or have a cuddle. Some want to hit you."

Policing is not the only area of life where divisions exist between "proper" experts and the rest. Actors suffer, too. Prunella Scales tells of meeting people while out walking with Timothy West, her husband.

"Thank you for all the pleasure you've given us in Shakespeare," the punter will announce to West,

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

before turning to Scales. "Of course we've seen you, too, but you do comedy, don't you?"

This is to patronise a consummate actress whose Sybil in *Fawlty Towers* was one of the classics of television. Last night she played a new series, *Acting With...* (BBC2 except Wales, where it will be shown this Friday).

A... is a master-class, though Scales hates the word. She

took pairs of young actors through texts from *The Birthday Party*, *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*, in a fascinating voyage around the actor's art.

In particular, she passed on something learned from John Gielgud about emphasis: that in a given sentence there is invariably only one word that requires emphasis and the actor's task is to identify it.

There was a wonderfully comic moment when Scales called one of the actors "luvvie" and immediately leapt on herself: "Actors never call each other luvvie, it's all got up by the press." I sensed that this little rant had been planned to lighten the mood, but planned or not it showed a deft touch in the handling of what is essentially a rehearsal atmosphere.

If one was seeking a grouse it would be that for a television audience, a scene from *Fawlty Towers* would have been enlightening. The faultless delivery of Scales and Cleese in that show were every last nuance from the script and I would have welcomed a glimpse of the methodology.

Fishing, also known as angling, is the most popular participant sport in Britain but that does not make the assessment by the American comedian Steve Wright any less perceptive: that there is a thin line between fishing and standing on a river bank looking like an idiot.

In *Go Fishing* (Channel 4) last night we were confronted with the presenter John Wilson not only standing beside the Wensum in Norfolk, but also crawling towards its bank on all fours, to avoid casting a shadow over the water in which lurked chub. Daddy, daddy, what's that man doing? Hush, child, I'll tell you when you are older.

I will cheerfully toss about in a boat at sea in search of fish that have long since been vacuumed up by Spanish trawlers, registered in Newlyn, whose skippers have grand old Cornish names such as Jose and Manuel. But river fishing? Far too easy.

Rivers have men called keepers who breed fish in tanks. They put the fish into the river and the fishermen come along with their rods and hook them out. A piece of cake compared with dropping a line off the Lizard when the nearest fish is 50 miles away.

Yes, I know: I'm missing something. And Wilson makes *Go Fishing* worth the watching. He conveys a genuine admiration for the fish. Not even John Motson drooling over Eric Cantona can match Wilson with a salmon on his hook: "Look at that! He's still going! Beautiful!" Glorious madness.

Matthew Bond is on holiday

- 6.00am Business Breakfast** (835/72)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Celestial) (47171)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Celestial) (653775)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (2963171)
9.45 Kilroy, topical discussion (s) (8787828)
0.30 Good Morning (s) (97807)
2.00 News (Celestial), regional news and weather (2814591)
2.05pm Turnabout (s) (5237133)
2.30 Going for a Song (42539)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Celestial) and weather (17930)
1.30 Regional News and weather (67112323)
1.40 Neighbours (Celestial) (s) (9465249)
2.00 Peckham (s) (8143907)
2.40 The Rockford Files (s) (1857626)
3.30 Ants in Your Pants (s) (6724591) 3.50 **Orville and Cuddles** (s) (478249) 3.55 **Chucklevision** (s) (674326) 4.15 **Free Willy** (Celestial) (s) (2286882) 4.35 **Take Two** (Celestial) (s) (2520220) 5.00 **Newsworld** (Celestial) (3379572) 5.10 **Grange Hill** (Celestial) (s) (1988220)
5.35 Neighbours (s) (Celestial) (s) (130336)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Celestial) and weather (423)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (775)
7.00 Holiday, Jill Dando experiences New Zealand's volcanic landscape and the bubbling geysers alongside the bush and coastline of the Coromandel peninsula. Sandra Gulla visits Peking, Majorca, Monty Don acquires a bear and Kevin Woodhouse visits Whitley, the town that boasts connections with Bram Stoker's *Dracula* (Celestial) (s) (5249)
7.30 EastEnders, Sam sees the record straight and shocks Peggy and when Cindy learns of Ian's future plans, she decides it is time to make David act (Celestial) (s) (959)
8.00 Great Ormond Street, Tales of heartbreak and courage from the wards of the famous children's hospital. Including a six-year-old with one of the largest chest tumours the hospital has ever treated (Celestial) (s) (4997)
8.30 The Brittas Empire, Comedy of errors with the pedantic leasure centre manager, with Chris Barrie (Celestial) (s) (3404)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Celestial), regional news and weather (7442)
1.30 They Think It's All Over, The comedian Nick Hancock compares a game of wit and sporting knowledge with team captains David Gower and Gary Lineker who are joined by regulars Rory McGrath and Lee Hurst. This week's guests are Steve Giam and Craig Charles (Celestial) (s) (22775)
1.00 The Oscars, Barry Norman presents a specially-edited round-up of the 68th annual Academy Awards ceremony (Celestial) (s) (8794)
2.00 FILM: Network (1976) starring Peter Finch (who won a posthumous Oscar), Faye Dunaway, William Holden and Beatrice Straight. A satirical drama about an increasingly untinged television anchorman. Directed by Sidney Lumet (Celestial) (s) (99195)
1.00am Weather (6048027)

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- BBC2**
8.00am Open University: Edison - the invention of television (7960794) 6.50 **Cheddar** (659317) 7.15 **See Hear** (Celestial) (s) (83454) 7.30 **Stargate** (s) (Celestial) (s) (35335) 8.00 **Blue Peter** (s) (Celestial) (s) (510712) 8.25 **Oakie Doke** (s) (s) (6638152)
8.40 The Record (s) (6715423)
9.05 Daytime on Two: Larnexpress (s) (6534588) 9.25 **See You, See Me** (s) (6547152) 9.45 **Watch** (s) (9880317) 10.00 **Playdays** (s) (4222539) 10.25 **Come Outside** (s) (6252628) 10.45 **Teaching Today** (s) (6248630) 11.15 **Clementine** (s) (6518152) 11.30 **Teaching Today** (s) (3249) 12.00 **See Hear** (s) (Celestial) and signing (93210) 12.30pm **Working Lunch** (33881) 1.00 **Teaching Today** (s) (6591205) 1.40 **Hotch Potch House** (s) (9445551) 2.00 **Oakie Doke** (s) (s) (20211907)
2.10 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (4892171)
3.00 News (Celestial) and weather (447797)
3.05 Westminster with Nick Ross (6471572)
3.55 News (Celestial) (4798882)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (688) 4.30 **Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (572) 5.00 **Easier** (s) (6555)
5.30 The Village, Last programme in the documentary series about a Hampshire village (152)
6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (132355)
6.25 Heartbreak High, Steve's crushing act: worth his pain? Matt's father arrives at Harley and Bolton moves into the warehouse with Allie (Celestial) (s) (55255)
7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show, Animation (Celestial) (s) (785881)
7.30 Young Musicians 96, National Brass Final. Jury members John Miller, David Punter and Richard Watkins pick this year's brass finalists from five highly talented young musicians. The winner goes forward to Sunday's *Concerto* final (s) (74355)
8.30 Food and Drink, Chris Kelly and the team with recipes, tastings, features and news from the food and drink business (Celestial) (s) (1046)
9.00 Murder One, Neil Avedon is granted bail in the matter of Jessica Costello's death (Celestial) (s) (799826)
9.45 Straight from the Heart (Celestial) (s) (929442)
10.30 Newsnight (Celestial) (204065)
11.15 The All-New Alexei Sayle Show (s) (s) (363355) **WALLS** 11.15-12.00 **Wales 2000** - the Agenda (383355)
11.45 Holiday Outings (s) (254930)
12.00 The Midnight Hour (s) (94553)
12.30am 7.15 Learning Zone, Open University



Five talented musicians (7.30pm)

- CHOICE**
Motormania
Channel 4, 8.00pm
 The story of Britain and the motor car reaches the Second World War and almost comes to a halt. With car factories taken over for more pressing needs, and petrol rationed and then virtually withdrawn, there were no new cars to buy and little chance of using existing ones. Moreover, the blackout made driving dangerous and 1941 saw a record number of road deaths, despite a halving of traffic compared with before the war. All of this is recorded in a lively mixture of reminiscence and archive film. Stories of black-market petrol, and of petrol substitutes, are particularly diverting. Even after the war most car production went for export and petrol remained on ration. The Morris Minor, offering new extras such as a heater and a radio, was the star of the first postwar Motor Show. But it was easier to buy one in Sweden than in Britain.
- Without Walls**
Channel 4, 9.00pm and 9.30pm
 The only thing wrong with tonight's items is that both could have been longer. The *Without Walls* format of two half-hour films can bring welcome discipline but it is also restricting when there is more to say. Jonathan Green's investigation into slaying raises all sorts of intriguing questions which there is no time to develop. But his argument that slaying is a welcome challenge to the moralistic and pretentious is persuasively made. The American cop series *Star Trek* and *Hitch* likewise deserves more than this brief and somewhat hectic analysis. Intelligent though it is on the show's attitudes towards violence, blacks, women and male relationships. The film, the first of three on television police series, is a reminder that however transparent popular drama might appear, it is never ideologically neutral.
- Straight From the Heart: Golly Secrets**
BBC2, 9.45pm
 The series about real-life love stories continues to prove that potentially sensational material can be treated in a sensitive and honest way. All of tonight's stories are the stuff of which tabloid headlines are made. What we get instead is sober, thoughtful recollection. The common thread is a guilty secret. Stella loved one man but married another. John's marriage lasted a long time and produced five children. But eventually he had to admit that he was a transsexual and wanted to live as a woman. Lawrence, out of work for long periods, developed a compulsive shopping fantasy. He imagined himself as John Travolta and bought clothes to match. His spending, concealed from his wife, brought the family finances to the edge of ruin.
- Aud the Beat Goes On**
Channel 4, 10.00pm
 The Liverpool-based *Sixties* drama continues to harp on sex and class. These were the days when, if a girl got pregnant, the boy felt forced to marry her, unless the problem could be solved by a do-it-yourself abortion. But the time when gay relationships, still outside the law, exposed the participants to blackmail. And a newly assertive working class was challenging what it saw as middle-class complacency. All these themes are woven into Alex Winsworth's script, and indeed they form the bulk of it. As a result, Jenny Agutter claims the most individual performance as the unhappy spouse of Stephen Moore's aspiring Conservative MP. Her strained and miserable face, as she reluctantly plays the political wife, is acting which works.

- 5.00am GMTV** (583012)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (2948862)
9.55 Regional News (Televised) (4209688)
10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (8404201)
10.35 This Morning (9646375)
12.20pm Regional News (Televised) (2810775)
12.30 News & Weather (Televised) (7897442)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (7672133) 1.25 **High Road** (Televised) (970864) 2.00 **Letters** (Televised) (s) (30546317) 2.25 **Chain Letters** (Televised) (s) (30555152) 2.50 **Vanessa** (Televised) (s) (4151249)
3.30 News headlines (Televised) (9090077)
3.35 Regional News (Televised) (1302828)
3.30 The Magic House (s) (5510152) 3.40 **Tots TV** (s) (2525807) 3.50 **Sooty and Co** (s) (s) (8720775) 4.15 **Animaparc** (s) (Televised) (s) (9999242) 4.40 **Island** (Televised) (1343171)
5.10 Animal Country (9416423)
5.40 News and weather (Televised) (858569)
6.00 Home and Away (s) (Televised) (129881)
6.25 HTV News (Televised) (394084)
7.00 Emmerdale, Nick has an encounter with poachers; while Kathy's evening ends in a passionate child (s) (7107)
7.30 West Eye View, Current affairs magazine (Televised) (355)
8.00 The Bill, Conway has to defend London and Keane, when a young tearaway is injured (Televised) (9085)
8.30 Married for Life, Ted decides it is high time he had some recognition from his boss (Televised) (s) (6572)
9.00 Peak Practice, Will's relationship with Kate reaches a critical point as he and Andrew disagree over the welfare of a 12-year-old boy. With Simon Shepherd, Gary Mavers and Sheilah McLeod (Televised) (s) (9751)
10.00 News & weather (Televised) (43715)
10.30 Regional News (429997)
10.40 Savage Sites, Using rare and astonishing footage, the programme traces the lifespan of the whetstone that devastated Wichita, Kansas, in 1991 (Televised) (404978)
11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (537065)
12.35 FILM: Black Moon Rising (1986) starring Tommy Lee Jones, Linda Hamilton and Robert Vaughan. A professional thief is lured by the FBI to steal a top-secret computer tape from a corporation, but the assignment proves to be problematic. Directed by Harley Kozlik (173911)
2.25 Late & Load (s) (2048244)
3.25 The Chart Show (s) (s) (1068085)
4.15 ITV Sport Mini Classics (6454747)
4.25 Football Extra (s) (6127992)
5.00 The West at Home (63517)
5.30 Morning News (90008)



Shepherd and McLeod (9.00pm)

- As HTV WEST except:**
5.10pm-6.40 The Really Helpful Programme (9416423)
6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (394084)
7.30-8.00 Grass Roots (355)
WESTCOUNTRY
As HTV West except:
12.55 Emmerdale (7672133)
1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (58301256)
1.55 Home and Away (4204859)
2.25 Vanessa (30549404)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (3091171)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (9418423)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (45626)
7.30-8.00 Wild West Country (355)
CENTRAL
As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (7672133)
1.25 Chain Letters (58301256)
1.55 A Country Practice (34482152)
2.20 Vanessa (30540133)
2.50-3.20 Look and Cook (4151249)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (9418423)
6.25-7.00 Central News (394084)
7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (355)
11.40 Film: Agatha Christie's Thirteen at Dinner (421201)
1.25am Late & Load (4483756)
2.30 Hotel Babylon (4482669)
3.05 Funny Business (18373805)
3.35 Football Extra (9848485)
4.15 Jobfinder (4727008)
5.20 Asian Eye (8745089)
WEDDING
As HTV West except:
12.55pm Chain Letters (7672133)
1.25 Home and Away (58301256)
1.55 Shortland Street (94482152)
2.20 Vanessa (30540133)
2.50-3.20 A Tale of Four Sea Ports (4151249)
5.10 Home and Away (9418423)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (591)
6.30-7.00 Michael Barry's Undiscovered Cooks (171)
7.30-8.00 Serve You Right Live (355)
S4C
Starts: 6.30 Chicken Minute (80210) 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (30881) 9.00 **Fifteen to One** (10442) 9.30 **Yegolion: taw** (5926404) 9.50 **10.10 Mado**, Everywhere (3045711) 10.25 **Japan 2000** (4447575) 10.45 **Quest** (3033171) 11.00 **Science in Focus** (6708881) 11.20 **Stage One** (6861997) 11.30 **Penwdsau** (4187133) 11.35 **Film and Video Showcase** (9555171) 11.45 **First Edition** (4197152) 12.00 **House to House** (93238) 12.30pm **Emmerdale** (7672133) 1.00 **Sit** (40268) 1.30 **Keepers of the Kingdom** (10133) 2.30 **Those British Faces** (404) 3.00 **Food File** (6978) 3.30 **Go Fishing** (249) 4.00 **Jimmy's** (864) 4.30 **Saved by the Bell: The New Class** (268) 5.00 **8 Pump: Uned 5** (1423) 5.30 **Countdown** (222) 6.00 **Newsnight** (555423) 6.15 **Harpy** (75352) 7.00 **Pobol Y Cwm** (407591) 7.25 **Sgrin Ti Sgrin** (672794) 8.00 **Pacio** (7507) 8.30 **Newyddion** (9442) 9.00 **And the Best Goes On** (8423) 10.00 **Brookside** (43797) 10.30 **Cutting Edge: Special Force** (53591) 11.30 **Father Ted** (99046) 12.00am **A Brief History of Slang** (992) 12.30 **CAPD: Stargate and Hutch** (65553)
NICKLEODEON
8.00am Henry's Cat (4210317) 8.15 **Blue** (99317) 8.45 **Trouser** (858336) 9.00 **Badini** (981977) 9.30 **Grumpy** (4523404) 9.45 **Rugrats** (37457) 9.55 **Aash** (1865449) 10.05 **Second Count** (223336) 10.30 **Alien and the Chipmunks** (13688) 10.50 **Peppercorn** (50077) 11.00 **Banana Sandwich** (131510) 11.40 **Children's BBC on Nickelodeon** (2228) 12.00 **Magic School Bus** (2513) 12.30pm **Grumpy** (94429) 1.00 **Global Guts** (90044) 1.30 **Victrones** (53794) 1.50 **Dungeons and Dragons** (98353) 2.00 **The Lost Foot Show** (99317) 2.30 **The Joker's Wild** (401981) 3.00 **The Young and the Restless** (1263417) 3.30 **Film: Betwyl** (s) (Televised) (s) (1869171) 10.30 **Entertainment Now** (122084) 11.00-12.00 **The Erogenous Curve** (189331)
DISCOVERY
4.00pm Time Travellers (6513794) 4.30 **Chart Bravo** (981977) 5.00 **Treasure Hunters** (331171) 5.30 **Terra X** (669993) 6.00 **Time Travellers** (6513794) 6.30 **Mythbuster** (1217012) 7.30 **Mythbuster** (1217012) 8.00 **How They Built the Channel Tunnel** (970225) 8.30 **Social** (2421508) 9.00 **New Space** (97940) 9.30 **Alan Partridge** (979510) 10.00-12.00 **Film: War of the Worlds** (252588)
PARAMOUNT
7.00am Beauty and the Beast (84713) 8.00

- 6.30am Chicken Minute** (s) (80210)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (30881)
9.00 Fifteen to One (s) (10442)
9.30 Schools: The Mix (987030) 9.45 **Stop, Look, Listen** (988713) 10.00 **Fourways Farm** (7685830) 10.10 **How We Used to Live** (4447575) 10.45 **Quest** (3033171) 11.00 **Science in Focus** (6708881) 11.20 **Stage One** (6861997) 11.35 **Film & Video Showcase** (9555171) 11.45 **First Edition** (4197152)
12.00 House to House (93238)
12.30pm Sesame Street (19404) 1.30 **Orville** (4205210) 1.55 **The Seasons**, Animation to the music of Tchaikovsky (2697341)
2.05 FILM: My Gal Sal (1942) starring Victor Mature and Rita Hayworth. A biopic of the 19th-century songwriter Paul Dresser and the love of his life, the musical comedy star Sally Elliott. Directed by Irving Cummings (318997)
4.00 Jimmy's (s) (Televised) (s) (864) 4.30 **Countdown**, (Televised) (s) (268) 5.00 **The Montel Williams Show** (Televised) (s) (2537305)
5.50 Terrytons (834201)
6.00 The Avengers (s) (Televised) (43268)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Televised) (429539)
7.50 The Skot Viewers' soapbox (722572)
8.00 Motor Men: Is Your Journey Necessary? (Televised) (s) (7807)
8.30 Brookside, Max protests his innocence but nobody is interested; Jacqui and Rachel are incensed when David invites himself to their party, and Kylie comes home from Thailand (Televised) (s) (9442)
9.00 Without Walls: A Brief History of Slang (Televised) (s) (9132)
9.30 Without Walls: CAPD - Stargate and Hutch (Televised) (s) (48713)
10.00 The Best Goes On (Televised) (s) (1201626)
11.05 Big Mouth, Tony Parsons with a challenging mixture of music and discussion. With Miranda Sawyer reviewing the week's new records (s) (8454)
12.00am News, Black comedy series set in a Miami hospital (Televised) (s) (272553)
1.35 FILM: Gentlemen's Agreement (1947, b/w), Ella Kazan's Oscar-winning indictment of American anti-Semitism, starring Gregory Peck, as a magazine writer who poses as a Jew and encounters bitter prejudice (67335485)
3.30 Writing on the Line, Gwyn A. Williams looks at the life and death of the Czech writer, patriot and one-time mistress of Kafka, Milos Jelinek (played by Michele Wale) (s) (7391282), Ends at 4.45
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3.30 Writing on the Line, Gwyn A. Williams looks at the life and death of the Czech writer, patriot and one-time mistress of Kafka, Milos Jelinek (played by Michele Wale) (s) (7391282), Ends at 4.45
9.30 Without Walls: CAPD - Stargate and Hutch (Televised) (s) (48713)
10.00 The Best Goes On (Televised) (s) (1201626)
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Illingworth to stand down as team manager

To speak to a consultant, call Philip Styles.

Dole pays tribute to mentor Nixon on eve of primary

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER AND IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN WHAT might seem a puzzling move, Bob Dole firmly identified himself with Richard Nixon while campaigning in California for today's Republican primary.

He made a pilgrimage to Nixon's grave and then delivered an emotional speech in praise of the only American President who was forced to resign in disgrace. Mr Dole saw the visit as a tribute to the man he regarded as a mentor and political role model. The visit revived memories of Mr Dole breaking into sobs as he delivered the eulogy at Nixon's funeral.

Shortly before Nixon died two years ago at the age of 81, he advised Mr Dole to run to the right in the presidential primaries and then return to the centre in time for the general election against President Clinton—advice that Mr Dole seems likely to follow.

Nixon also assured Mr Dole, who will be 73 in July, that age is not a factor for a politician as long as his health remains good. As if to deflect Pat Buchanan's charges of elitism, Mr Dole took pains to compare his humble beginnings with Nixon's. Both were born into working-class families who struggled through the Depression.

"I got along very well with Mr Nixon," said Mr Dole, during a stop at the Nixon library, birthplace and gravesite in Yorba Linda, outside Los Angeles. "We were good friends in the good times and bad." Mr Dole does, however, reject any connection with Nixonian dirty tricks and Wa-

tergate. "I was off that night," he says. He believes that Nixon would have difficulty winning the Republican nomination today because he would be considered too pragmatic and moderate. Mr Dole is nothing if not pragmatic but, for now at least, would rather not be thought of as moderate.

Mr Dole appealed to both Mr Buchanan and Ross Perot to keep out of the general election to avoid siphoning off Republican votes and thereby ensuring Mr Clinton's re-

Washington: The former US Secretary of State, Edmund Muskie, was in critical condition after a heart attack and a stroke. Mr Muskie, 81, a former Maine senator and Democratic presidential candidate in 1972, suffered the complications during surgery to remove a blood clot from his leg. (Reuters)

election. He discounted Mr Perot's fledgling Reform Party, saying that Republicans were already embracing the reforms that the maverick billionaire has in mind. Mr Dole described Mr Buchanan as "a good Republican", and urged him to close ranks. But yesterday Mr Buchanan threatened an independent run for the White House now that he has lost his battle for the Republican presidential nomination.

The rabble-rousing populist is planning to send letters to

125,000 supporters around the country to solicit their views. Four top aides including Bay Buchanan, his sister and campaign manager, are said to be "four-square behind the idea", and Mr Buchanan has invited other prominent backers to his Virginia home after today's California primary to discuss the plan.

The winner-take-all California primary delivers 163 delegates. Pulls put Mr Dole well ahead of Mr Buchanan — by 52 to 18 per cent — but show Mr Dole trailing Mr Clinton there by 58 to 37 per cent.

Mr Dole is expected to win easily in today's two other primaries, in Nevada and Washington state. He has already wrapped up the nomination, with 1,005 delegates, nine more than needed, to Mr Buchanan's 109.

Mr Buchanan relishes the limelight, and it is clearly in his interest to whip up speculation about an independent bid because it puts pressure on Mr Dole to meet his demands for a prime-time convention speech and robustly conservative party platform.

Mr Buchanan has won more than two million votes in the primaries so far, or 20 per cent of the total. He enjoys a passionate following among hardline social conservatives and economically insecure blue-collar workers. Exit polls from last Tuesday's Republican primaries in Michigan, Ohio and Illinois suggested that as an independent he would retain the support of 26, 19 and 14 per cent respectively of those who voted.



Hillary Clinton, watched by her daughter Chelsea, hugs Emina Bicakcic, eight, who read a poem she had written when the First Lady arrived at Tuzla airbase yesterday during her eight-day European goodwill tour

Fears grow over Bosnia arms

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON'S plan to provide the Bosnian Government with heavy weapons later this year is causing increasing concern.

Although there is no question of covertly equipping the Bosnian army — it will be done openly and will be monitored by an international arms control team — British military sources admitted yesterday that they were "unhappy" about the prospect of American arms arriving in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Britain and the rest of the European Union have decided against any arms trading with the country while the Nato-led Implementation Force (Ifor) is still deployed there in its peacekeeping role.

Officially, the EU governments have decided not to oppose the American "equip and train" strategy, although they have relayed to Washington their fears of any arms build-up during Ifor's 12-month deployment, because of the need to maintain Nato's impartial role. Under

the Dayton peace agreement, signed by the leaders of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia, there is supposed to be weapons parity between the former warring factions. This is based on a ratio of two guns or tanks held by the Muslim/Croat Federation to one by the Republic of Srpska.

The first arms control teams, authorised by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, have already visited Bosnia and performed random checks. British military sources said the checks, which allowed access to any barracks at short notice, had gone smoothly. When American heavy weapons started arriving, there would be a full exchange of data made available to all sides.

The arms embargo has already been lifted but, under the Dayton agreement, only small arms and training can be provided at this stage. Heavy weapons and ammunition, mines, combat aircraft

and military helicopters can be delivered only in about three months' time. Britain is also considering several measures to help the federation with training. Combat training, however, has been ruled out. Foreign Office sources said military assistance would be restricted to such areas as mine clearance and English-language instruction.

Hillary Clinton, the American First Lady, arrived at Tuzla in northern Bosnia yesterday to meet the US troops who are based there. She was greeted by eight-year-old Emina Bicakcic, who read a poem she had written after the Dayton peace accord was signed. Emina and her family lived in a basement during the siege of Sarajevo.

She was among a group of schoolgirls who greeted the first lady and her daughter Chelsea at Tuzla airport. Mother and daughter brought with them letters from American children to their Bosnian counterparts.

High anxiety over tower block debris

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

A HONG Kong council candidate's election campaign came to an abrupt halt when she "knocked unconscious by a piece of Lego that fell from a tower block."

Leung Sukching's misfortune has highlighted a constant problem in a city crisscrossed with high-rise buildings — the danger to passers-by of falling debris, animals and the occasional person. Hardly a week goes by without the *South China Morning Post* reporting a horrendous injury or lucky escape from the overhead menace.

Ms Leung's campaign manager, Chris Wong Singfai, said the police were investigating the incident, but "it was hard to find out where the plastic toy fell from".

Police recorded two years ago that 390 cases of falling objects were investigated, re-

sulting in 169 arrests. The Government has been unable to remedy the menace, due to a shortage of manpower and the habits of the seven million population, some of whom prefer to jettison rubbish from balconies rather than trudge downstairs with dustbins.

"The young people have no education in the more crowded housing estates," complained Joseph Lai, a councillor. "I don't think it is their intention, but for the sake of convenience, they throw out dangerous objects."

A seemingly innocuous sandwich can turn into a deadly missile when dropped from a height, he said.

The *Morning Post* reported recently that a 69-year-old woman was impaled by a bamboo pole that crashed through a window of a tram. She survived after surgery.

Minorities left out of diplomacy

BY MICHAEL BIVON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

LAST year the Foreign Office recruited only one member from an ethnic minority out of more than 2,500 people throughout Britain who applied to become diplomats.

The figure was given in the Foreign Office annual report, published yesterday. It also showed that there was more success last year in getting women to join — of the 21 people taken into the first stream of the diplomatic service, 12 were women. This is a marked increase on recent years, when only about a third of the intake was female.

The Foreign Office opened 14 new posts last year but spent less on diplomacy than France or Germany. Represented in 188 countries, Britain still has one of the world's largest diplomatic services.

Yeltsin points finger at Nato

BY LEYLA LINTON

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday voiced his concern about Nato war exercises and the alliance's plans to embrace former Warsaw Pact states when he arrived in Norway for a state visit.

He said in Oslo: "We will discuss why Nato is pushing to the East and with what aims." He is also expected to discuss Nato's military manoeuvres in northern Norway.

The Russian leader opposes Nato plans to extend member-

ship to former Soviet bloc countries in Eastern and Central Europe. Mr Yeltsin, who faces elections in June against tough Communist opposition in Gennadi Zyuganov, will use the visit to raise his profile as a world leader. His wife, Naína, who is playing a bigger public role, is accompanying him. Oleg Soskovets, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, are also part of a 200-strong entou-

age. Although the visit is mainly of symbolic importance for the Russians, environmental issues are high on the Norwegian agenda. Oslo is worried about the danger of contamination from Russian nuclear waste in the Kola Peninsula, 30 miles from their joint border. Bjorn Tore Godal, the Foreign Minister, said the situation in northwest Russia was a "catastrophe".

Leading article, page 19

Astronaut awaits family news on space superhighway

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK



Shannon Lucid: family on Earth has her orders

A WOMAN astronaut, floating high above Earth in the Russian space station *Mir*, is keeping tabs on her husband and three children via e-mail.

Shannon Lucid, an American scientist who has started a five-month stay on *Mir* under a Russian-American collaboration, has instructed her family to send her daily bulletins from their home in Texas. She wants to be kept up to date with local gossip, with the children's schooling, her husband's (though she will be able to see from her 245-mile high vantage point if it is cloudy). "I have told them, on pain of dire consequences, that every night I

expect them to send an e-mail message," said Ms Lucid, 53, before boarding *Mir* from the space shuttle *Atlantis* at the weekend.

It remains to be seen if the nightly messages reach *Mir*. They will be transmitted via the notorious Moscow telephone system, and Ms Lucid may discover that although the Russians are able to dispatch cosmonauts, they have had more questionable success with their terrestrial communications.

In addition to e-mail, the biochemist will be provided with lighthearted entertainment in the form of television newscasts that will be beamed to her on a regular basis. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) is determined to save her from the fate of an earlier, long-stay astronaut on *Mir*: boredom. Norman

Thagard, who spent four months on the space station last year, complained that his mind went stale at weekends, when he was resting from his duties.

During his *Mir* stay, Mr Thagard also lost more than a stone in weight, so disintegrable did he find the Russian food. Nasa has allowed Ms Lucid to select her menus. They include dried beef, dehydrated rice, and custard-style pudding, similar to the rations issued to US troops in Bosnia, though without a hint of Balkan vodka to wash it down. Ms Lucid says she has also developed a taste for canned fish, a speciality of the *Mir* quartermaster.

Ms Lucid's first tasks after *Atlantis* docked with *Mir* were to unpack her belongings and tidy everything away, and also to deal with the rubbish

(which will be borne back to Earth by the shuttle). She has chosen to treat with levity a remark from Yuri Glazkov, deputy director of the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Centre near Moscow, who said that he expected the presence of a woman on *Mir* to improve the station's "micro-climate". He said: "We anticipate that the fans will be taken care of in a more timely manner because we know that women love to clean."

Ms Lucid's colleagues for the next 140 days will be Yuri Onufrienko and Yuri Usachev. She is uncertain how they will get on, as her Russian is limited chiefly to technological terms. "I don't think Yuri and Yuri are much interested in sitting around and discussing ways of producing oxygen," she said.

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State land claim fails to tarnish dreams of riches for thousands of Brazilians



Gold-diggers wait to hear how much access the state-owned mining company will allow them to the huge deposits found in the Amazon

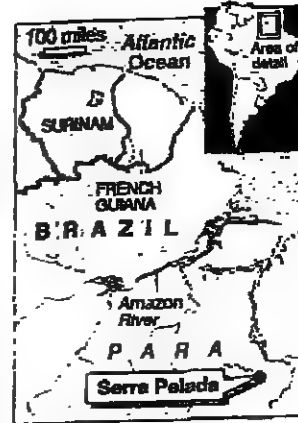
Gold fever spreads in the Amazon

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI
IN VILA DA SERRA PELADA

THOUSANDS of gold diggers, with pick and shovel in hand, are converging on a lush hilly area of the Amazon where Brazil's state-owned mining company says it has discovered what could be the biggest gold deposit yet found in South America.

Driven by dreams of "El Dorado", many have walked for miles to reach the ramshackle village of Vila da Serra Pelada in the northern state of Pará. At least 12,000 men are hoping to try their luck digging up the dark red, rocky ground below the hill of Serra Leste, three miles from the village.

"I had a dream years ago foretelling I would find a lot of gold here. Now I am certain it will come true," said Pedro de Melo, a 58-year-old *garimpeiro*, or gold-digger, who like most abandoned his family in the poor neighbouring state of Maranhão, to come in search



of quick wealth in the Amazon. "I am not leaving until I am a rich man," he said.

The 30ft hole he has dug at the start of his search is a sign of his conviction. "Yesterday, I found a few grams, tomorrow I will find more," he said.

He admits he has caught gold fever.

Geologists say that initial tests and excavations by the state mining company Companhia Vale do Rio Doce indicate that at least 150 tonnes of gold, worth £1.63 billion, lie beneath the surface. There could be up to 900 tonnes of top quality gold down there. That would make it into one of the world's biggest mines," said Roberto Macedo Pinheiro, a geologist working on the site.

News of the discovery has travelled fast, triggering a gold rush similar to that which in the 1980s drew 50,000 *garimpeiros* to excavate 70 tonnes of the precious metal from a huge open mine on land that is now the village of Vale da Serra Pelada.

Armed with shotguns, they invaded land inhabited by indigenous tribes. They built up a Wild West-style settlement where more than 5,000 prostitutes found work and where many residents can be seen stumbling across unpaved roads suffering from the effects of a distilled sugar cane rum, called *cachaça*. The newly found gold reserves are only a few miles from the now exhausted old mine, parts of which have been turned into a polluted lake, clogged with

tonnes of mercury used in the extraction of gold. Doctors at the hospital in Serra Pelada said that this year alone they have treated more than 1,000 people suffering from lung infections, facial paralysis and skin problems caused by mercury.

Gold fever produces other problems, too. "People here made lots of money in the 1980s and spent it all on women, cars and drink. They paid hired gunmen to kill their rivals. It was a situation with a tragic end, and the same is likely to happen all over again," said Luis Gonzaga, the owner of the only hotel in Serra Pelada. "All that sudden wealth sent people crazy, senseless. This place was a den of violence and immorality."

This time the *garimpeiros* face another obstacle. In the past the Government allowed free access to the mining area as part of a policy to populate the remote areas of the Amazon Basin. Now the state-owned company plans to extract the bulk of gold with modern machines and says that they have the rights over the land around Serra Leste.

The company will allow limited access, but it is unlikely that individuals will be able to make a fortune. "Their primitive methods using the pick and shovel are outdated. To get at the gold, we have to perforate 400 meters below ground and use the latest technology," a spokesman for the state concern said.

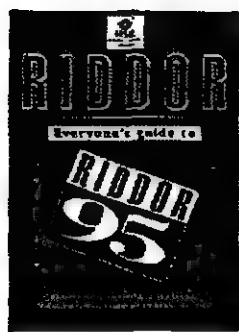
However, this will not stop the flow of *garimpeiros* to the region, and it is estimated that at least 20,000 more will arrive when the first big excavations take place.

Angry gold-diggers are blocking the roads around Serra Pelada to try to stop the company's lorries from moving in with the machinery. "We are not going to allow them to take what is ours. They say it's their land and gold. We say it's ours," said Mauro da Silva, the self-proclaimed leader of a loosely organised union of *garimpeiros*.



Digging for riches at the site near Vila da Serra Pelada

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The Dead of Night

Only the fear kept us awake, the fear that one of us might fall asleep and leave the other to face the night alone.

Write a short story about what happened that night.

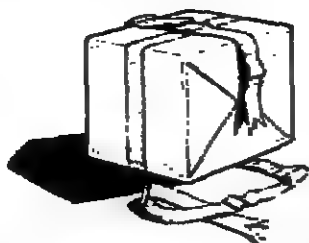
You should think about

- the people in the story
- how the story began
- what happened next
- the ending



A Special Gift

Things do not have to cost money for us to treasure them. Sometimes the presents we treasure the most are not expensive, but are special for some other reason.



Write a story about a special gift and what happens to the person who receives it. (The person in the story could be you)

The written evidence

In last year's English tests most children opted to write a story rather than a letter, but their use of paragraphs seemed to suffer as a result. The better letters opened with a paragraph giving a clear statement about its purpose. They were divided into a series of further paragraphs, each covering a particular point. However, one shortfall was that few letters ended effectively.

Assessors added: "In the successful letters there was widespread evidence of confident and consistent use of complex structures, including the passive voice. Use of commas was only evident in the better scripts, and the use of the apostrophe was rare." Many of the stories had good openings last year but often had weak middle and end sections. Paragraphing was much weaker than in the letters and very long stories often did not score highly because they were rambling. Examiners said: "Most successful stories were written in

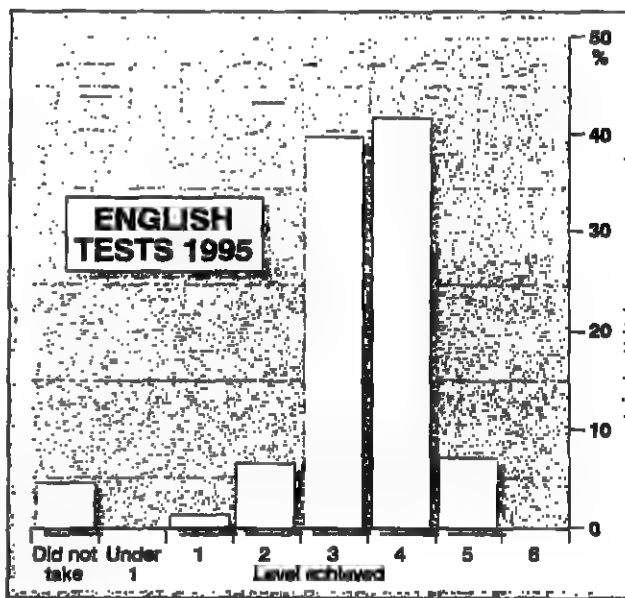
the first person, and children who started in the third person often lapsed into first person by the end."

Multiple choice questions in the reading tests were generally answered well, but questions about characters proved trickier as children had to read between the lines and give evidence for their answers. Some found it difficult to analyse feelings and referred to what characters did instead.

In the spelling test at Levels 1 and 2, short words were most often spelt correctly, for example, "top" and "old". The hardest words to spell included "finished", "wonderful" and "number". At Levels 3 to 6, children had the most difficulty with "apprehensive" and "occurred".

Handwriting was generally enjoyed by children, but there was one unexpected danger, as assessors pointed out: "Some children continued the story given, rather than copying it out as asked."

DAVID CHARTER



TOMORROW: science for 11-year-olds
THURSDAY: preparing for maths tests
FRIDAY: testing 14-year-olds in the three core subjects

Relax for a better result

Primary school teachers Hilary Flaxman and Alison Adams offer advice on how children should be encouraged to approach their English tests

Children will do far better in national curriculum tests if they are relaxed and confident — and parents can play a major role in building that self-assurance.

Simply talking with your children can improve all aspects of their performance in English. Despite concern that the video age means the death of verbal communication, children's viewing can be the basis for wide-ranging conversation in the home about what they have watched, or about the characters in games they play. If parents have any questions about the tests, they should ask at school. It is important that they know what is going on, because it will add to children's confidence if parents can answer their questions honestly.

It is vital that parents do not panic, or compare their children with others. Your child must feel relaxed if he or she is to do their best.

We have found that it means an awful lot to children that their parents wish them good luck on the morning of their test, and ask them afterwards how it went. If no one takes an



interest, they feel let down. They do not want a great fuss to be made — grilling children incessantly about the tests will only make them anxious — yet they do want recognition.

Most children face three tests, lasting a total of two-and-a-quarter hours, to assess their reading, writing, spelling and handwriting. Their performance will be graded, with the overwhelming majority reaching between Levels 3 and 5. A typical child is expected to achieve Level 4. Some exceptional children will achieve Level 6, which is an excellent result. Children of lower ability will have their reading,



Taking the test for 11-year-olds at a Hertfordshire school

writing and spelling assessed by their teacher.

READING TEST
The first test, on Wednesday, May 15, lasts for an hour. It will be based on texts "linked through a theme" containing separate sections of writing: probably a story, an article, a

poem and a book list. Children will be asked to read them, then answer questions about their contents. Marks are not given for spelling, handwriting, punctuation or grammar in the reading test. Instead, examiners are checking that children have understood the question and answered it precisely from the text. Children may look at the text again while they are answering the questions. These will probably be about what happens in the story or the information given.

the characters involved and the way language is used. Children will be asked for opinions on the "theme" of the text they have read, to demonstrate that they can use it as a stimulus to thought.

SPELLING AND HANDWRITING TEST

This 15-minute test, also on Wednesday, May 15, may cause anxiety for some children. It has been designed in the form of a short story. The children have a copy of the story in front of them, with gaps left for some missing words (see example above). The teacher reads the story aloud, with the children following their own scripts. The teacher then repeats the story, giving the children time to fill in the gaps.

There is also a short piece, probably between 20 and 30 words in length, for the child to copy. This has been introduced to assess each pupil's handwriting skills. The ascenders (such as b, d and l) and the descenders (such as j, p and q) should be clearly shown, since children sometimes tend to write a capital-looking P, for example, then follow it with a lower-case

letter. By 11, children should be developing a joined-up style but each letter should be distinguishable. Large or small writing will not be penalised, provided it is legible.

WRITING TEST

The next day, children will sit an hour-long test to assess their writing skills. They will have to write either a short story or a non-narrative piece, such as a letter or a description of something familiar to them. The choice will be explained to them just before the test. They will have 15 minutes to plan their work and 45 minutes for the test itself.

Children should keep to the style of the option they have chosen. If they are writing a letter, for example, they should remember to sign it.

The first sentence of a story is important, so the child should return to check it if there is time. The story should have a beginning, a middle and an end, showing how the child can set a plot, control the pace, develop characters, use dialogue and interest the reader.

One way to check for spelling, after reading the story through to check for sense, is to read it backwards to focus on individual words.

● The authors teach at Norwood Primary School, Eastleigh, Hampshire

TEACHER'S TEXT FOR A SPELLING TEST

The words missing from the children's booklets are those printed in **bold italics** in your version.

Time Machine 1 (Levels 1-2)

The professor stood back. He pushed his glasses to the top of his head and sighed. Months and months of **hard work** were now over. The time machine was **finished**. All he had to do was to try out his **wonderful** invention. Would it work? What would happen? Where should he go?

If everything worked according to plan his time machine would take him back in time to any year that he chose. The question was... when?

Slowly, he reached out to touch the gleaming dial. For the first time in months he began to worry. Until now he had been **much** too busy working on his invention to think that one day he would actually have to use it!



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Books that can help

THE full set of questions from last year's national curriculum tests for 11-year-olds, including the examples on this page, are now available in three paperback books sponsored by The Times.

Separate books published by Her Majesty's Stationery Office cover English, mathematics and science. Each includes an outline of the assessment process, advice on how to prepare for the tests and an explanation of the marking, as well as sample questions.

The books have been produced by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, the body responsible for the tests, and are the only ones to contain the actual questions. They are designed to help parents to work with their children in the run-up to next term's exercise marking the end of primary schooling.

The character of the tests has not altered significantly since last year, so the 1995 questions remain the most suitable practice material. Teachers have been notified of a limited number of changes to this year's papers. Many schools will be running their own revision classes, but the three books are designed as self-standing study aids.

Copies are available from mainstream booksellers, as well as HMSO's own retail outlets.

● The Parents' Guide to National Tests, published by HMSO, costs £4.95 per subject.

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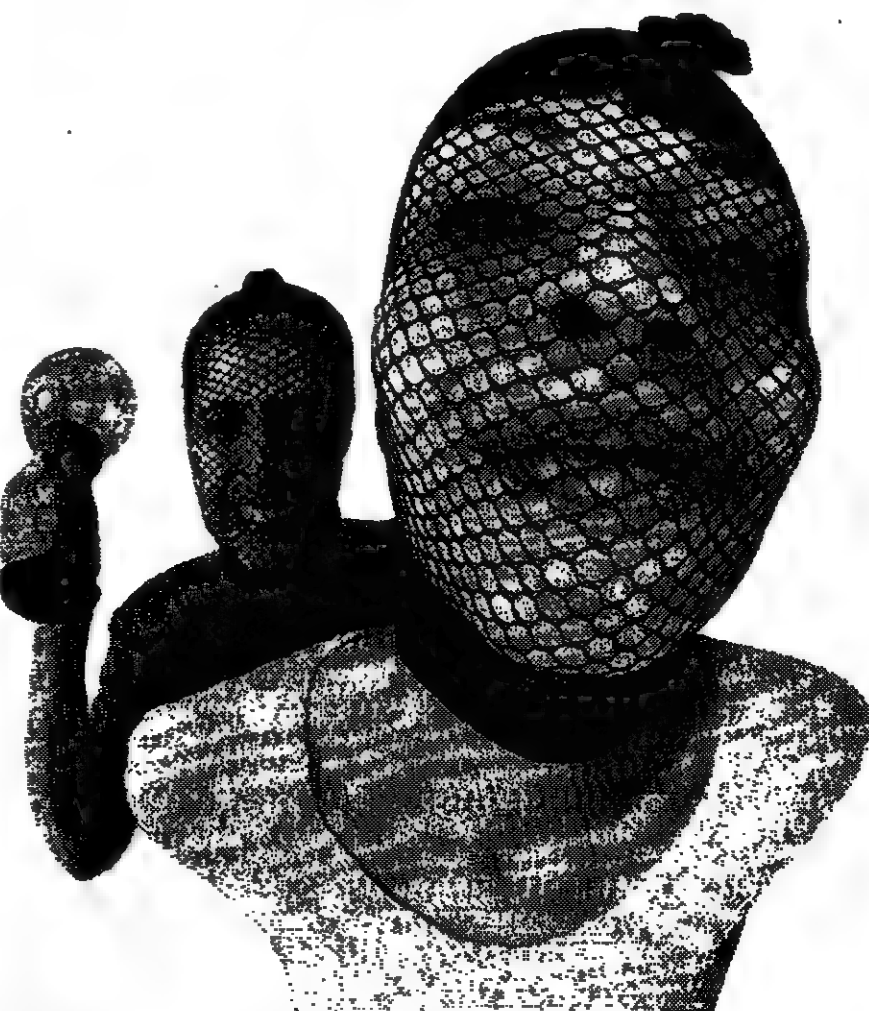
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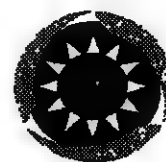
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Why Kohl is not a Bismarck

Roger Boyes calls time on the German Chancellor's vision

Fortune smiles on Helmut Kohl. Europe's great survivor, its dominant personality, has in the critical week of the inter-governmental conference been given support by the German voters. Three crucial regional elections showed important gains for his Christian Democratic Party. European monetary union failed to set the voters on fire.

But it would be wrong to assume that Herr Kohl is now free of all domestic restraints, that he can rumble, full throttle, towards Turin and a federal Europe. Germans are conservative voters, that much is clear from their voting resoundingly against any kind of Social Democrat or Green formation — and they are beginning to have conservative expectations of Europe. A poll published by *Focus* magazine shows that 34 per cent of Germans believe they are not getting good value out of Europe. (The British findings are similar: 44 per cent are dissatisfied.) There are increasing demands for lower German contributions to the European budget, for tighter controls on spending, for less wastage. These matters probably outweigh the federal programme.

Helmut Kohl has focused too narrowly on Europe

The Chancellor, whose passion for meat has been duly chronicled in a bestselling cook-book, is therefore under pressure to make an issue out of British beef. Ordinary Germans see no reason why they should help to compensate British farmers for the culling of herds. The Germans have been sounding the BSE alarm for more than two years, and consider the British Government to have been stubborn. Diseased cows, rather than weighted votes, are what moves the people. On the other great populist issue, the single currency, Herr Kohl is plainly on the losing side. Germans are still resolutely against abandoning the mark. This is a basic anxiety. The strong mark is modern Germany's answer to the chaos of the pre-war Weimar Republic. No amount of federalist propaganda is going to turn public opinion on this.

Herr Kohl tried at first to trump fear of losing the mark with the greater fear of a continental war. It did not wash. Now he is claiming that to delay monetary union would cost Germany hundreds of thousands of jobs. That has not impressed the president of the Bundesbank, Hans Tietmeyer, who does not see a connection, and believes there is no "economic necessity" for a monetary union. Germans tend to agree.

All of this pushes Herr Kohl into increasingly populist postures, to divert the voters' gaze from monetary union. Germany will become more assertive in the need for a European police force, and the Chancellor can be expected to make stirring speeches about cross-border crime and the

East European gangs that steal BMWs. He will press hard on Europe-wide consumer protection.

If this does not exactly smack of Bismarck, it was always an illusion to think of Herr Kohl in those terms. He was, and will always be a provincial politician who slaps backs, promotes favourites and dispenses favours. These methods have kept him in power for almost 14 years, and for a while they also gave him the air of a statesman.

In the 1980s, he made telephone alliances with socialists such as Mitterrand and Gonzalez, ate pig's knuckle with Gorbachev and Yeltsin, cracked booming golf club jokes with George Bush. His telephone, rather than the German Army, has put the country back at the forefront of Europe, and for that we should be grateful. But he remains a man of provincial taste and methods; his fabled intuition boils down to good party organisation. Today, these webs of influence have all but collapsed. He has no real friend on the world stage. President Clinton is on the campaign trail; Yeltsin is manifestly unreliable, again and again President Chirac fails to consult his supposed friend across the Rhine.

Helmut Kohl was looking bigger than ever yesterday, red-faced and chuckling in a way that shakes his whole body like a blanchard. But a closer look reveals a vulnerable and isolated man. The federal dream is fading fast. The mood is shifting at home (and not just in the glass towers of the Bundesbank). The problem is largely one of his own making. He has focused too narrowly on Europe and on monetary union, which he views as his destined last task. As a result, he has lost his grasp of economic management, and this oversight threatens to sweep away the European blueprint.

With an unbalanced budget, unemployment racing towards a post-war high of 4.5 million, and trademark companies going bankrupt, Germany is wracked with pessimism. Kohl appears to lack the dynamism needed to overhaul the social welfare system or shake up a hidebound economy.

Instead there is only bluster. His open-ended news conferences, once almost operatic occasions, have become embarrassing. He rambles, loses concentration. Only the sycophantic laughter of the press corps sustains the illusion that he is still on the ball.

Within the Chancellery, Herr Kohl has become more bullying and irascible. He has always been capable of rudeness: a recent biography recalls him telling his right-hand man, Wolfgang Schäuble, who is confined to a wheelchair, to "stay seated". Now, if anything, he has become cruder and more impatient. His aides are exhausted. There is a sense that time is running out for the Chancellor and his vision of a united continent.

Hear the Mad Cowboy sing the Oscar-winning 'Ol' McDonald's Had a Farm'



Give anoraks a break

Hobbies and amiable clubs are among Britain's glories. They deserve tax help

The problem with trying to judge situations on their own merits is that sometimes you wake up in the wrong bed. I have not got over the nasty shock of finding myself siding with Peter Lilley against Nigel Hawthorne. But however often I pick it up and shake it, I cannot see why unemployed actors should get the dole and maternity pay while remaining eligible to claim deductions ("wardrobe, hairdressing, taxis") as if they were self-employed. It just isn't fair. Writers and artists claim Schedule D perks, because if a writer or illustrator doesn't work, the money stops. That familiar fact of life has led to many of us scribbling desperately in a succession of hospital beds, maternity and otherwise; not to mention taking embarrassingly crummy commissions. I fear that (gulp) the tight-lipped and cheese-parter Mr Lilley is right: if you join an oversubscribed profession, you need a sideline. Plenty of actors know it too, and many fine decorating jobs are done by artists fresh from a triumphant northern tour as the Winslow Boy's big brother. All the same, their fiery arguments eventually deny my powers of logic so much that if I were the Social Services Secretary I would probably give their special break for five years after college and ten years before pensionable age: then they need only spend 25 years in the real world.

Even so, after this unwelcome lapse into chilly fiscal conservatism it was a relief to feel the red blood of spendthrift passion coursing back into my veins again: which it did, the very next day, over the matter of pigeon racing.

Customs and Excise have told pigeon clubs that they are not engaged in a sport and therefore do not qualify for the new VAT exemption which has been a windfall for yachtsmen and yogis, karate groups and majorettes, who have claimed back thousands in refunds on past subscriptions and built whole huts with it. It is a significant perk. Moreover, the VAT tribunal added insult to injury by telling the pigeon clubs that they are not sportsmen because the pigeons do all the work. "The activities of the owner," it said, "are purely incidental." (I should be very careful, if I were them: this line of argument could lead to the conclusion that since workers generate profit, the activities of the Chancellor of the Exchequer are "purely incidental" too.)

A Sports Council representative then stuck an ear in by piously saying that VAT exemption should encourage people in "acquiring physical skills and undertaking physical effort" — as if there were no skill in training, feeding and handling birds, and no physical effort in cleaning them out. Let alone climbing up on the loft roof with a handful of corn to get a stroppy one down so you can pop its ring into the time-clock. Bitterly, senior pigeon spokesmen said that it was unfair for Vetsmen and Sports Council to recognise yoga ("sitting around in awkward positions"), pool ("drinking immense amounts of beer"), and angling ("They just sit there holding a stick over a bit of water"). They could have added motorsports — a contradiction in terms — and even sailing, which also involves a lot of sitting down.

This newspaper, the heart of which is sometimes to be found in the right place, printed a stirring leader in defence of pigeon-racing on the ground that it is an art going back to the fifth Egyptian dynasty. A good start: but even that relied too much on deifying other activities as mere pastimes to be "lumped with Football, tiddlywinks or table football".

This is quite the wrong angle of attack. The more pastimes we have the better. For never mind the sweaty values of the Sports Council: any physical danger we may be in is nothing next to the fatty degeneration of the national psyche. We watch too much television, go out too little. A survey in Birmingham has revealed that most people's favourite hobby is "shopping". If this is not a national emergency, I do not know what is.

For there is a great, half-hidden, wonderful culture of pastimes in Britain. It is one of the best things about us, and if it declines God help us. A decade ago, researching a book on Britain at play, I immersed myself in such worlds as pigeon-racing, steam-engine restoration, canal-digging, ballooning, canary-fancying, angling, husky-dog racing with

wheeled carts, and Octopush. Octopush? You know, underwater hockey, played on the floor of municipal swimming pools. The big hazard, they tell me, is surfacing breathless to find that your snorkel is stuck into the midriff of a swimmer overhead, and "sucking hopelessly at his great gut when what you need is air". I saw such strange sights as the release of a thousand circling pigeons from a lorry at dawn (1998 eventually flew the right way, the other two didn't). I watched a flurry of home-made hovercraft, apparently powered by boiled-on dustbins, flinging themselves across a lake like so many jerry-built UFOs.

I was fortunate in my contacts, having one brother who regularly parachuted in a gorilla-suit (with sponsorship from the Milk Marketing Board —

they drank a glass of milk with historic relish on landing) and another who combined Morris dancing with a passion for a terrible thing called a Cossack, a USSR sidecar outfit with a headlight the size of a prize pumpkin and Cyrillic instructions hammered into the fuel-tank. "Designed for crossing Poland without permission," he would say lovingly. "Explains why the Poles keep so cheerful!" Indeed, reading the owners' magazine I found that out of 15 articles, only five dealt with Cossacks which actually moved. The rest were about tapper adjustment and rebuilding carburetors. They had rallies and compared the linkage of their steering-damper knobs.

Meanwhile, the pigeon men discussed ways to put fake eyes on pigeon-wings to deter kestrels, the amateur canal navies saved up two-and-a-half thousand books of Green Shield Stamps for a new excavator (true!) and the balloonists tossed coins for the role of "Cremation Charlie". This is the person who sits inside the deflated balloon, right up the far end, to hold it down for the first half of inflation while the

others direct the first jets of flame into its opening.

My book was the happiest of projects, and gave me a lifelong respect for hobbies: things done not for money nor for any cause (certainly not the craven pursuit of "fitness"), but for their own sake, out of love and fascination. My heart always sinks when people feel they have to justify their amusements as conservation, or a sponsored charity event, or a training module, or part of a fitness programme. It is such a timid, anxious way to live: a denial of fun.

Sadly, it is encouraged by the opinion-forming metropolitan class which derides "anoraks" and "trainspotters". Apart from a few bland universalisms such as cooking and gardening, and such chic predilections as equestrianism and sailing, it is smart to sneer at hobbies. It is more acceptable to be a passive consumer of culture, visiting galleries and cinemas and buying OK books, than to put on an amateur musical or spend a thousand hours building a working model of a steam roundabout. Perversely, we have more respect for people who bang on about the cultural significance of Madonna than for those who are expert on the genetics of budgerigars. In drama and novels, hobbies are treated as jokes or unhealthy obsessions; a rare exception is Nevil Shute, who accords proper honour, in *Trustee from the Toolroom*, to the dogged perfectionism of his meek hero, who manages to cross half the world and reclaim a child's lost inheritance purely because all over the globe there are subscribers to the "Miniature Mechanic" magazine who have read his column and revere him for his tips on bevelled piston-bearings.

So it does not matter a damn whether pigeon-racing is a sport or not. The very word sport has grown disreputable. Pigeon fanciers deserve their VAT exemption because they are skilled and diligent and devoted to something for its own sake, and because they share their enthusiasm in amiable clubs. The only hope lies in direct appeal to John Major. He always strikes me as a man who, if he were not Prime Minister, would have a little workshop to potter in. He must see, surely, that if you want a Britain at ease with itself you must encourage it to have hobbies? Take the money away from the actors and give it to the anoraks, I say.

Resist the herd instinct

What is this life without risk, asks Woodrow Wyatt

There is a burgeoning belief that it is the Government's duty to extend indefinitely our expectation of life and to protect us from risk on the way. An occasional failure of, say, the NHS to prolong a life in unusual circumstances is reported as due to its inefficiency or underfunding. Deaths from new sources of risk are blazoned as avoidable if the Government had acted in time. The conviction that the Government is liable is augmented by Euro-legislation on health and safety regulations. Backed by legal aid, an avalanche of gargantuan claims will soon fall on Whitehall unless we declare an opt-out. Public feeling is quickly roused and fuelled by rapid communications and by the ill-considered instant opinions of politicians, commentators and self-proclaimed experts who are able to get themselves on the air.

According to the Ministry of Transport, there are some 3,650 deaths a year from road accidents in Great Britain. The risk factor is therefore one in about 6,600. Probably it could be halved if the speed limit on motorways were cut to 50 mph and on all other roads to 20 mph. But the Government knows there would be an outcry at such measures. The risk of death from taking contraceptive pills is around one in 50,000, and although the Department of Health has no accurate figures for the numerous deaths caused by wayward effects of vaccinations, no one suggests abolishing either because of the risk.

Banning marginally risky products frequently has unintended consequences. The late Lord Rothschild, in his remarkable lecture "Risk" in 1978, cited the banning of DDT by Sri Lanka in the early 1960s, induced by an emotional book, *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson. Sri Lanka endured a virulent epidemic of malaria spread by mosquitoes, which could have been eliminated by DDT.

Aspirins must be in containers which children cannot open. Nor can old people with arthritis, who may suffer agony until help, not always readily available, arrives. The new finding that alcohol can be good for you may have the unintended consequence of creating more alcoholics destined to die of drink — more scope for suing the Government. Flight from risk is a fantasy. There is no refuge from the 18,000 or so annual deaths from influenza. There is no way of preventing the thousands of suicides (though the Government has a "target" for reducing them). A general law against handguns would not deter the one-off killer, who could easily acquire weapons illegally.

Mass panic is quickly communicated. Hence the unnecessary destruction of eggs and hens initiated by Edwina Currie when she started the salmonella scare. Millions were destroyed, even though very few humans were dying from salmonella, or die from it now; yet the living conditions of battery hens have scarcely improved. Shrewd financiers such as Bernard Baruch, Sir James Goldsmith and George Soros make fortunes by selling out when they foresee a herd of investors about to succumb to hysteria leading to a stockmarket crash, and then buying back shares when they are cheap.

It is not proven that any human being has died from "mad cow" disease. But suppose that it could be shown that BSE was responsible for 100 deaths. As it is generally agreed that since 1989 any danger has been eliminated, other than for cattle born before that date, the risk of infection is infinitely less than your chance of winning the National Lottery. The disease may be horrible for the sufferers and their relatives, but the risk is too small to justify the destruction of the cattle industry. The billions required in compensation, and the delay of at least two years in creating a new market, would mean the end of traditional British beef farming, with severe damage to the economy for ten years or more.

Where I am an Opposition leader, I would be tempted to urge that the health of the people is paramount, and never mind the economic fallout from destroying cattle, and now perhaps sheep, which would stymie tax cuts attractive to voters. Were I in government, I would do nothing drastic, however popular tough immediate action might be, but wait until clearer scientific evidence becomes available. In his lecture, Lord Rothschild acidly commented: "I do not denigrate politicians or their decisions by saying that, with very few exceptions, they are motivated by considerations of personal power, winning elections and the national good, in that order." As a distinguished scientist, he was "not happy about leaving the treatment of risk to the judgment of politicians".

But scientists may be as inclined as politicians to parade differing pet theories, unless and until contrary evidence emerges. What is needed on such occasions is a cool, common-sense approach to what scientists and "experts" say. Few things turn out as bad or as black-and-white as they seem at first. Meanwhile, I propose to buy fillets of British beef, the best in the world, to put in the deep freeze while they are still cheap.

Sauerkraut?

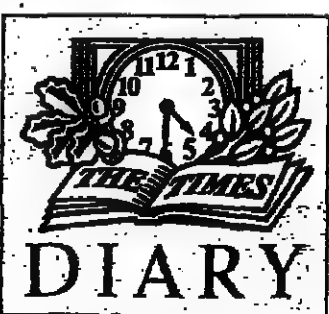
THE POLITICS of British beef have invaded the football pitch. The Germans, who boast an oversized, offal-soffing Chancellor, say their football team will be bringing its own beef supplies for the European soccer championships in June.

The team's cook, Fritz Westermann, says he has discovered a Bavarian butcher who can guarantee the quality of his meat and will fly it into Britain throughout the three-week tournament. The squad and its officials will be eating 90lb of meat a day.

"It is not just a matter of the meat, it's sausages as well," Westermann tells me from his kitchen. "And ham, milk, cheese and yogurt. All the other teams in Euro 96 will be hit by this. We are not going to take any risks — even the Bolognese sauces for our pasta are made from pure beef."

"I know some people laugh at me for being so fussy. But experts knew before about the danger of the beef in Britain. The extent of it, however, has upset my stomach."

As England were preparing for their friendly game against Bulgaria at Wembley tomorrow night, the Football Association was dis-



playing a healthy Dunkirk spirit. Scotch beef is still on the menu for England.

●Auberon Waugh, the wine-bibbing editor of the *Literary Review*, is bracing himself for a spell in the Tower of London. In the forthcoming issue of his organ he prints a review of *The Housekeeper's Diary* by Charles & Di Before the Break-Up, detailing much of the content of the steady work, which is banned in Britain.

Cake stand

EVEN in the gilded lives of the philanthropist Vivien Duffield and

her escort, Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the sleek chairman of English Heritage, tonight is a big night. It is Mrs Duffield's 50th birthday, and Sir Jocelyn has organised a thrash for her in Greenwich. It will be no sausage-on-sticks affair.

The highlight, I understand, is to be a model cake created by a firm of prop-makers in Hackney. The fake cake is in the shape of the Royal Opera House (of which Mrs Duffield is a director), with the planned modern accretions to the building tacked on. Musical instruments are said to adorn the sides, together with graven images of Mrs Duffield herself.

Mooring on

YESTERDAY'S announcement that the Government will not countenance the slaughter of elderly cattle brought a welcome, if temporary reprieve for the Pamela Anderson of the cow world.

Grantchester Heather 8 is the most valuable cow in the country, having sold for a record £54,000 four years ago. She may be past her prime now, but in her heyday she was the toast of the Royal Show and other bovine beauty parades.

Cleaning out her palatial barn yesterday, her Shropshire owner, Peter Draper, was plegmatic.

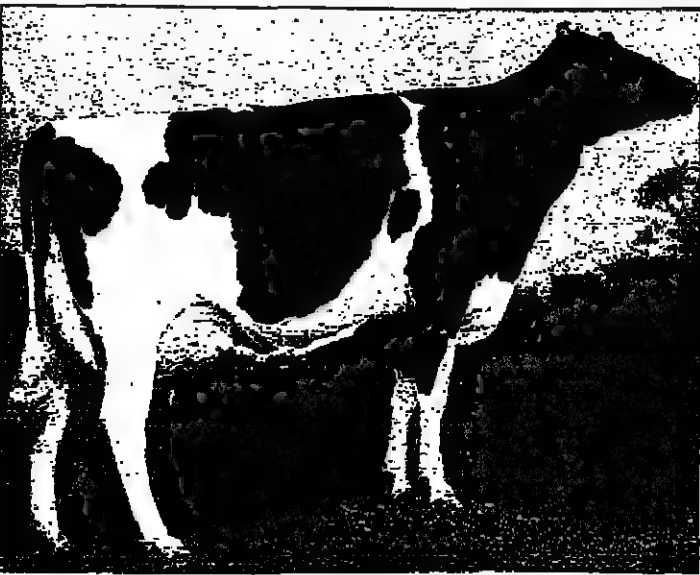
"Let's just wait and see what happens," he muttered darkly, before returning to his frenzied work with a pitchfork.

Knife's work

SILVER has been disappearing from the conservative Carlton Club. A recent dinner held there by an Oxford University dining society ended with undergraduate light-fingers clearing their table of

salt cellars, cutlery and goblets. After haring out into St James's to bray about their coup, the bloods formed a "conga", led by a stubby Italian of gypsy extraction, which snaked off to Black's nightclub in Soho. There they started to hand out spoons and forks to baffled waitresses, advising them to "sell 'em and buy something later".

The waitresses suspected the gifts and handed them back, and as night turned skull-rachtingly to day, remorse overtook the villains.



Prize beef: what price now for Grantchester Heather 8?

A few days later, a shambling figure rolled into the Carlton and left a brown paper-bag full of silver at the front desk, then scampered like a startled tapir up Piccadilly.

●The soapbox on which the Prime Minister stood to speak to the nation during the last general election is to be dusted off and brought out again. When John Major met prospective parliamentary candidates on Saturday in Bristol, he let slip during questions and answers that he planned to bring out "many" soapboxes for the forthcoming campaign.

Trumped

THE PRINCESS OF WALES turns out to share some genes with an earlier Queen of Hearts.

One of her forebears, Elizabeth, daughter of James I, was so-called because of her enchanting manners, radiant visage and beautiful, big eyes. Shopping expeditions in the Strand won her the affection of the common people, as did her love for her husband, Frederick V, King of Bohemia. He was a handsome, athletic chap, but prone to indecisiveness and bouts of depression.

P.H.S



WHERE'S THE BEEF?

Science is no substitute for judgment

A risk is a risk but how small is small? The Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, presented the House of Commons with a great weight of scientific opinion yesterday but he failed to answer the question on which the future of British beef hangs.

Mr Dorrell defined the danger of contracting Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease from beef as "likely" to be "extremely small". No activity was free of risk, he said, and children were at no greater risk than adults. He urged consumers to weigh the risk relative to that of other foods. But how "likely" is it that the risk will remain "extremely small"? Is it a thousand to one on, or simply better than even? And what is an "extremely small" risk? Is it one in a million, one in ten million or less than the chance of scooping the National Lottery? Until there is a clearer lead, many consumers will not buy beef because they fear that when it comes to contracting CJD — it could be them.

Mr Dorrell was at pains to emphasise he was acting in accordance with "the science". He was hoping that those white-coated men, associated with certainty and insulated from error, would calm irrational public concerns. But "science" here is no more than an aggregate of the informed opinions of imperfect seekers after elusive truth. The whole unhappy story of BSE, its discovery, the downplaying of danger, the revision of risk and the changes in regulation, demonstrates how "science" can be as fallible as any human enterprise, farming for example.

The report of the Government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee deals throughout with probability and likelihood rather than proof and evidence. It suggests that the ten new CJD cases are likely to have developed in human beings exposed to BSE but confirms that no definite causal relationship has yet been established. This is not to fault the scientists; they acknowledge explicitly that they cannot come to firm conclusions because they are

hampered by lack of data. Rather, the responsibility rests with politicians. They have been found wanting.

Last Wednesday's statement from Mr Dorrell set off a panic. Ministers were left flat-footed. From the first suggestion of an increase in risk the most lurid forecasts were legitimised. Those steps prudently taken since 1989 disappeared under a stampede of speculation. Countries whose record in animal husbandry has not hitherto excited admiration rejoiced in the chance to ban British beef — throughout the world. Their pleasure must have been all the greater with the BSE announcement coming only the day after Britain proclaimed it would embark on a high-minded crusade to improve animal welfare at the Turin inter-governmental conference. A hollow laugh will greet any UK government's attempt to stand up for the beasts of the field now.

On Sunday ministers entertained the prospect of significant slaughter of Britain's cattle stock and hinted that decisions would be made on a surer footing after a weekend's deliberation. Now the cattle cull is off, the only casualty is confidence and, after gathering all its experts together, the Government is no more able to reassure the public than it was last Wednesday.

Calmer heads will probably conclude that eating British beef is not an act of conspicuous gallantry — the risk less than the occasional cigarette or an outing on the nursery slopes — but ministers have hardly acted in a manner designed to reinforce that impression. Even Mr Dorrell's limp endorsement of beef as a school meal was immediately undercut by his suggestion that schools should continue to offer an alternative. Farmers crippled by uncertainty and consumers, anxious for some scale to judge the risk they run when contemplating a roast, have been ill-served. Science is no substitute for judgment and that has been in scarce supply this week.

THE QUEEN IN POLAND

A welcome trip to a nervous nation

The Queen yesterday began a state visit to Poland, one of Britain's staunchest allies in the Second World War, whose bravery has a right place in British hearts. For too long, this royal acknowledgement of the country's debt to the Poles who fought alongside British soldiers had to be postponed until Poland could enjoy the human rights it was denied during Communist rule.

The symbolism of every gesture will therefore be of vital importance during the short state visit. The sensitivity was underlined by an unseemly flurry over the omission of Auschwitz from the royal programme. Polish and British officials had to make clear that both the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh would pay full homage to the Polish Jews killed by the Nazis; within hours of arrival the Queen was seen talking to Jewish leaders in the centre of Warsaw.

Honouring historic links and the huge contribution to Poles who settled in Britain is relatively easy. Satisfying Poland's expectations of Britain and its West European allies today is more difficult. For Poland has two demands that will be a leitmotif in the speeches and welcomes the Queen will hear: swift entry to the European Union, and the rapid enlargement of Nato to include Poland. The first will be a main theme of the European Union's inter-governmental conference that opens on Friday. The second provoked an outburst from President Yeltsin last week when he met Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, and has surfaced again during the Russian leader's current visit to Norway.

The Queen does not broach political issues except by subtle nuance. Poland will not receive from her a definitive answer to its

two requests. But its leaders should have already realised that Britain, more than most of its EU partners, champions Poland's cause. Britain wants early Polish entry to the EU, and is ready to make the economic sacrifices, especially in agriculture, that others still balk at, for all their verbal support for a genuine market opening. Polish accession, together with that of Hungary and the Czech Republic — where the Queen will arrive tomorrow — is not only a recognition of that country's rightful place within European culture; it is also the best guarantee at present of Polish security. The same cannot be said for early Nato membership.

The Polish leadership remains to be convinced. It is afraid of the high economic cost — to Polish agriculture, industry and ability to compete — of EU membership, even if a lengthy transition period can be negotiated. The post-Communist leadership of President Kwasniewski, as much as that of Lech Walesa, his more nationalist predecessor, sees Nato as a cheaper and speedier way of calming age-old anxieties about its eastern neighbours. If Russia's Communist-dominated Duma is now demanding the recreation of the old Soviet Union, what is to inhibit future calls for domination again of Eastern Europe?

Britain is loath to rebuff Warsaw and will not agree to a Russian veto. But geography and common sense suggest that to enlarge the alliance in the teeth of deep Russian hostility would be folly. To give security guarantees that were not wholly credible would create less, not more, security for Poland and fellow East European applicants.

THE SHERIFF STRIKES BACK

But Robin Hood is a legend with legs, in foolproof tights

Nottingham is advertising for a new municipal hero. A consortium of businessmen and busybodies called Nottingham First deems that Robin Hood is old-fashioned, and is inviting suggestions for a new identifying symbol for its city.

It is right to deem that Robin Hood is old-fashioned. For his origins are lost in the ballads of the Dark Ages. His practice of robbing the rich to give to the poor is politically incorrect for all parties, especially new Labour. His chaste love for Maid Marian is chauvinist-patriarchal. His enmity to the rich is medieval class war, and his generosity to underdogs is green-collar populism. Even his skill at archery is suspect.

Yet, after eight centuries Robin remains remarkably durable. He is the only demimythical hero to last so long without a respectable literary godfather. King Arthur, the upper-class British ideal, has been profiled by dozens from Malory and Geoffrey to T.S. Eliot and T.H. White. Tennyson to T.S. Eliot and T.H. White. Robin Hood, Arthur's popular counterpart, has no such bard. His companions, from Little John to Much the miller's son, are lesser stars than Lancelot and Gawain.

However, Robin retains his universal vitality in modern books and films. His anti-establishment attitudes make him a popular hero for Hollywood, from Kevin Costner hero for Hollywood, from Kevin Costner and Douglas Fairbanks to Mel Brooks and a fox in tights in Walt Disney's schmalzy cartoon with star voices. Errol Flynn

which swashes were buckled and children's Saturday matinee dreams were made. Richard Greene's version was the first popular success for ITV. And its theme song, "Feared by the bad, loved by the good, Robin Hood, Robin Hood, ROBIN HOOD", was even worse than the medieval ballads, though this was a close-sung thing.

Indeed, Nottingham has newer trademarks, from lace to Lady Chatterley dreamt up by the first major English novelist of truly working-class origins. Boots plc has its headquarters there, but toothbrushes and family deodorants are less striking logos than bows and arrows or men in green tights. Center Parcs is certainly the defining place for modern family weekends: but it is not exclusive to Sherwood. Nottingham Forest has a good name as a football team, except when playing against foreign competition. And the Trent rather than the Watford Gap is where the North, demarcated by accent and custom, really starts, just as Nottingham stands at the heart of England, where East Midlands meets West.

But Robin Hood is still a better municipal emblem for it than his successors. Nottingham would be foolish to downsize him and his band of merry men. If it were to be so mad, Yorkshire already has claims on Robin, with his grave, his bow and arrow, Robin Hood's Bay and, not least, the stubborn Yorkshire certainty that it knows best. Nottingham should hang on to Robin Hood for fear of something not half so good.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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BSE and need for new approach to animal husbandry

From Professor Michael A. Crawford

Sir, Oliver Walston ("Sweep away on a tide of hysteria", March 23) argues that the blame for the BSE crisis does not lie with government. That cannot be true. The cause of BSE was the naive use of high-protein diets made with animal offal. This was done by the feed manufacturers and allowed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. But the blame is not of this Government alone.

After the war the ministry turned the focus of food production from nutritional quality to quantity. The criteria for animal production became weight gain, at low cost and high profitability. The animal-fat content of the nation's diet rose steadily, as did mortality from heart disease.

One might blame the farmers for accepting the principle of cannibalism by feeding ruminant brains and other organs back to ruminants. Knowing that there was scrapie in the sheep population, the risk should have been recognised.

When BSE broke in the mid-1980s Professor Pierre Boudowski, from the Faculty of Agriculture, Rehovot, Israel, and I were working at the Zoological Society of London, where there was also an outbreak of BSE among antelope species. Concerned that BSE had, at the start, crossed the species barrier, we published in the scientific journals a valid reason, namely that consistent increments of high-protein diets, and especially the switch from soya to animal protein, had depleted the specialised nutrients needed for the brain.

There is good experimental evidence to show that the brain then becomes susceptible to attack by foreign protein, resulting in severe damage and death, even though not from BSE as such. The brain is normally protected by a "blood-brain barrier". If that barrier leaks, the brain becomes susceptible to attack.

Had the ministry, as we suggested, examined the possibility not only that BSE was due to a protein but also that distorted diet was making the animals susceptible, it might have been possible to protect our herds by correct feeding.

However, the ministry apparently preferred to risk the possibility that its approval of a faulty dietary regime was wrong, as is now abundantly clear. If herds are slaughtered and the new herds are fed and treated on similar false principles of weight gain, disasters will continue. What is now essential is that animals be reared unsusceptible to attack.

Surely this risk could be removed

der ecological conditions in which animal health and nutrient value to the consumer are paramount.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL A. CRAWFORD,
36 Regent's Park Road, NW1,
March 25.

From Mr Caspar Bush

Sir, I am a dairy farmer from Somerset writing in despair at the possibility of all cattle over 30 months of age being slaughtered on BSE-affected holdings.

Our herd of 120 cows includes none below 30 months of age. We have had about 30 cases of BSE, one in an animal born in 1989, the remainder in 1987 and 1988-born animals.

By all means let us have a slaughter policy to restore public confidence in the industry, but let us base that policy on removing cattle from the affected year groups. If we slaughter all cattle born before 1990 we would lose, say, 20 to 30 per cent of cattle from affected herds but we could still produce much of the milk the country requires.

Otherwise the compensation we will require cannot be based on the theoretical cost of replacing stock, for there are not enough surplus cattle in Europe to replace the hundreds of thousands we would lose. Our loss of earnings for perhaps three years must be compensated.

And in the absence of at least a third of Britain's milk supply, what would become of our local dairies, feed mills, vets, machinery contractors, hauliers, auctioneers and other input suppliers?

Unless we limit the slaughter to animals born before 1990 I fear terrible hardship in the rural economy of Britain, not so much amongst farmers whose losses can be easily identified and compensated but for tens of thousands who are indirectly employed.

Yours faithfully,

CASPAR BUSH,
Pearl Farm,
Norton St Philip, Bath, Avon,
March 25.

From Professor Emeritus S. J. Wyard

Sir, The risk of contracting CJD from the consumption of beef appears at present to be small, but it is an unnecessary risk that people should be able to avoid if they choose to. And yet we read ("The vital questions", March 21) that "material from cattle can find its way into chicken soup, wine sauce, lamb stock cubes and jellies" — and as far as we know into dozens of other apparently innocent foodstuffs.

Surely this risk could be removed

immediately. The Government simply has to introduce an order prohibiting the incorporation of material from cattle in any edible product, unless that product is clearly labelled as "containing beef or beef products".

Yours faithfully,

S. J. WYARD,
Dale House, Church Road,
Sevenoaks Weald, Kent,
March 22.

From Mr Andrew Dakyns

Sir, Let us hope your "Poor John Bull" leader (March 23) is over-pessimistic. One ray of hope is that there has never, so we are told, been a case of mad cow disease among animals born and reared on organically run farms.

Today's catastrophe has been brought about by ignoring sound husbandry, if only sensible voices like those of the Prince of Wales, who has given a lead in managing farmland in as natural a manner as possible, had been listened to instead of being made fun of, we might not now be facing the horrendous price we shall all surely have to pay for the folly of contenting ourselves with short-term, cost-cutting dodges.

Yours etc,

ANDREW DAKYNS,
18 Lambridge Wood Road,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire,
March 24.

From Lord Carter

Sir, The Government bears a particular and heavy responsibility for the BSE crisis because it ignored pressure from many of us in the 1980s to pay full compensation for BSE infected animals. Only 50 per cent compensation was paid on the grounds that infected animals were worth less. By so doing, the Government effectively provided a perverse incentive against eradication.

Until the Government finally decided to pay full compensation in February 1990, this policy saved the Treasury a paltry £4 million. As we now face what is potentially the worst crisis in British farming since the war, this may turn out to be the most expensive £4 million that any government has ever saved.

Yours truly,

CARTER
(Opposition spokesman on
agriculture and rural affairs),
House of Lords,
March 24.

Whilst well intentioned, the banning of extremist candidates is the wrong approach to student union problems. The NUS ought to concentrate on making student unions more relevant to their members to improve the low turnout in elections.

There are extensive legal powers to ensure that student union officers do not abuse their position. The 1994 Act and the charities laws particularly bear on unfair, discriminatory behaviour and political activity. The vice-chancellors should use these powers effectively.

If they or the NUS consider the powers to be inadequate, they should seek further powers from the Government and Parliament.

Yours faithfully,

RICHARD HARWOOD,
1 Sergeants' Inn, EC4.

From Mr Nick Sinclair-Brown

Sir, The assertion that Mahler was unjustly neglected until the 1971 film, *Death in Venice*, may not be so bizarre as your report (also March 20) suggested. A Mahler symposium at the Royal Festival Hall in 1966 provided an opportunity for a comparative study of the hall's own records which revealed a significant increase both in programming and seat demand.

Despite being championed by a number of composers and conductors, the length of Mahler symphonies presented difficulties for both programming and LP recording. Visconti's inspired choice of Mahler to heighten the complex characterisation of the film produced a demand which dissolved these constraints.

Mahler believed that great music challenges rather than entertains. Although it is tragic to see works of supreme creativity exploited as vehicles for mere sentimentality, this does not mean that those who have ears to hear may not take up the challenge.

Yours faithfully,

NICK SINCLAIR-BROWN,
Hughes Hall, Cambridge.

Student unions

From Mr Richard Harwood

Sir, The proposal by the National Union of Students and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals to ban "extremists" from standing for sabbatical student union office (report, March 18) appears to me to be unlawful.

The Education Act 1994 requires that student unions operate in a fair and democratic manner. Banning candidates because of their political or religious views can only be undemocratic. Nothing in the 1994 Act, which contains the main legislative provisions on student unions, supports a ban. Additionally, the freedom of speech and charities laws which apply to student unions would oppose rather than uphold such a ban.

Popular classics

From Mr S. T. Millson

Sir, Richard Morrison ("Who killed the great dictators?", Arts, March 20) letters, March 23) asserts that classical music appreciation has become the preserve of an "ageing middle-class coterie", and that the symphony orchestra is heading for redundancy in the 21st century.

How strange, therefore, that at last Sunday night's Philharmonia Orchestra performance at the Royal Festival Hall, a capacity audience — from every age group — gave a tremendous ovation to the music of Borodin and Rachmaninov. How strange also that one of the world's most successful arts festivals, the Henry Wood Proms, should attract such a vast following, particularly among younger people.

Perhaps the day of the great composers and their present-day tail-coated exponents is not over after all.

Yours faithfully,

STUART MILLSON,
109 Durham Road,
Shortlands, Bromley, Kent,
March 20.

The hidden earl

From Mrs Catherine Hesketh

Sir, I think it is very sad that the bust and portrait of my great, great grandfather, the Earl of Iveagh should be effectively removed from public view at Kenwood (Diary, March 25). Not only do I feel it is a somewhat childish gesture in view of his generosity in giving the house and its contents to the nation, but also that some visitors may have an interest in the benefactor and may like to see a picture of him.

Surely one of the interesting things about Kenwood is that it is the house and collection of a particular man, not a collection got together by a government body or a group of academics, and I do believe it is important not to lose sight of this.

Yours sincerely,

CATHERINE HESKETH,
36 Porchester Terrace, W2,
March 25.

Broken engagement

From the Reverend

Malcolm A. Johnson

Sir, Stephen Plunkett's call for Anglican/Methodist unity (letter, March 23) is timely; but may I point out that 25 years ago our engagement to be married was broken by us Anglicans, so it is for us to approach the Methodist Conference in penitence and with plans for reconciliation.

The opposition to Michael Ramsey's plans was led by Graham Leonard, then Bishop of Willesden, and his friends — many of whom have since joined the Roman Catholic Church, where it seems to me their first loyalty always lay. Now can the rest of us seek a rapprochement?

Yours sincerely,

MALCOLM A. JOHNSON
(Master),
The Royal Foundation of
Saint Katharine,
2 Butcher Row, E14,
March 23.

China's judicial system

From Mrs Barbara Mills, QC,

Director of Public Prosecutions

Sir, I object to the hostile view expressed by Bernard Levin ("A mandarin in Peking", March 23) on my recent official visit to China.

My visit was made at the invitation of the Supreme People's Procuratorate of China, their equivalent of the Crown Prosecution Service, and the formal host was the Municipal People's Procuratorate of Tianjin. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office supported the trip, which is part of an ongoing programme of exchange study visits between English and Chinese prosecutors.

The Government remains deeply concerned about the human rights

situation in China. It deplores all abuses of human rights, and continues to raise these concerns with the authorities. However, one way to help China improve its human rights record is to promote contact and have a dialogue on a wide variety of subjects.

The Chinese National People's Congress recently passed some changes to their criminal justice system which will bring it closer to the English system. They include limitations on police powers of detention, early access to defendants for defence lawyers and a more adversarial court procedure with a greater role for defence lawyers.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed on 0171-782 5044.

Two minutes for silent memories

From the Secretary General of the Royal British Legion

Sir, The Royal British Legion warmly welcomes Colonel Anthony Lake's letter ("A suitable time for all remembrance", March 20) which makes a very good case for the observance of a two-minute silence at the same time on the same day each year.

Last year, the Legion's call for a nationwide two-minute silence at 11am on Saturday, November 11, observed by half the nation, provided an opportunity for us to pause and remember in whatever way we wished. The Legion was greatly encouraged by this public support. The occasion impinged on the national consciousness in a way that the silence on Remembrance Sunday no longer does, due to the way people spend their leisure time these days shopping, in recreation, or even staying in bed, rather than attending solemn ceremonies.

Pausing to reflect in silence for just two minutes during what until the end of the current millennium will be a weekday is likely to have a meaningful effect. We will be leading the campaign for silence again this year at 11am on Monday, November 11.

There is clearly no practical problem so far as the broadcast media are concerned, and we shall be seeking their and others' active co-operation. Our research shows that 93 per cent of the public are behind us (96 per cent among the 15-24 age group). We already have pledges of support from many major retailers, public bodies and local authorities, who will encourage people to stop and reflect.

Yours faithfully,

PHILIP CREAM,
Secretary General,
The Royal British Legion,
48 Pall Mall, SW1,
March 21.

From Mrs June Coleridge

Sir, I agree with Colonel Lake's suggestion. There are fewer and fewer people who can "remember" the two world wars of the 20th century. Would it not be better to move to a thanksgiving?

We could have a thanksgiving weekend to coincide with the schools half-term at the end of October, with Friday a public holiday. This would enable the families of the Jewish faith to gather on Friday, Muslims on Saturday and Christians on Sunday: the two world wars affected families of many faiths and nationalities.

I was a wartime Wren and would be sad to see the present ceremonies just fade away. For 50 years our children and now grandchildren have been spared full-scale war and many of them are out there now in the wide world working with nations with whom we fought. They and we have much to be thankful for at the end of this century.

Yours faithfully,
JUNE COLERIDGE,
Ortery, Harwood Road,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire,
March 20.

From Mr Jonathan Harrison

Sir, Surely the best time must be All Souls' Day (November 2) when we already remember the faithful departed?

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN HARRISON,
Castle Farmhouse, Odell, Bedford,
March 21.

Campaigning issues

From Mrs R. Wilson-MacDonald

Sir, Of course the world should be championing the Marsh Arabs and their culture against the brutal Saddam Hussein (Sir John Curtiss's letter, March 19).

But to say that people in the West are wasting their energies campaigning against ruining the environment, and against cruel sports and the evil, live export of animals is insensitive.

All cruelty is despicable, whatever form it takes and there is plenty of it in the world today. Tyrants take many forms. Let us try to bring them all low and stand up to the bully big or small.

Yours faithfully,

ROSEMARY WILSON-
MACDONALD,
Rose Farm, Chobham, Surrey,
March 22.

Yudkin library sale

From Mrs Constance Reed

Sir, The first holder of the chair of nutrition at London University was Benjamin Platt, appointed Professor of Human Nutrition at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1944, ten years earlier than John Yudkin (report, March 21).

I well recall sitting beside Ben Platt as we drove through the West End of London behind a car with the numberplate NUT 1.

That should be my number", said Platt mildly — only to fall into a state of apoplexy when he recognised at the wheel John Yudkin, who remained quite oblivious of the fist being shaken at him.

Yours faithfully,

C. REED
(Secretary to Professor Platt,
1952-61),
1 Meadow Springs,
Lydiard Millington,
Swindon, Wiltshire,
March 21.

MARY LAVIN

Newcastle and Manchester United left trailing by scoring prowess of Liverpool stars

James makes his point by saving the best for ITF

Newcastle will not win the Premiership — well, not in the Interactive Team Football (ITF) game, at least. Kevin Keegan's expensive struggle to take the title to the North East ran aground long ago. Despite games in hand and a wealth of talent at his disposal, 181 points is simply too much to make up.

If the top sides in the real Premiership were judged by ITF standards, the table would take on a very different look. Liverpool, whose defeat at the hands of Nottingham Forest may well have ended their challenge in the real world, would be ahead with 572 points, closely followed by Aston Villa on 555 with Manchester United struggling on 517. Keegan's poor chaps would be limping along in fifth place with 391, behind Tottenham on 416.

None of this comes as any surprise to leading ITF selectors. They know that it is not only superstars who win the points but the grafters, the men who turn out week after week and rack up the points quietly and efficiently. Alex Ferguson may be prepared to spend around £7 million on the erratic striker, Andy Cole, but not many ITF managers are taking such a risk. Overpriced, over-rated and over the bar — it is no way to win.

Liverpool, on the other hand, are winning on all counts. With Robbie Fowler scoring goals like it is going out of fashion, he has already earned 91 points for Roy Evans and is the ITF's top points-winner. But their success is not solely based on Fowler's eye for goal.

David James is the highest-scoring goalkeeper, while even the lowest-scoring regular members of the side, Ruddock and Scales, are among the top-scoring centre backs in ITF. Their tally of 35 points each is beaten only by Bruce, of Manchester United, Elhagui, of Aston Villa, and Mark Wright of... Liverpool.

In midfield, Steve McManaman is streets ahead of his rivals with 69 points, making Newcastle look dis-



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



tinctly short of ideas. The nearest they can come to the Liverpool maestro is Robert Lee, on a meagre 50 points. Even Ryan Giggs, he of the mazy runs and dodgy haircuts, can only stand in awe, with 60 points. John Barnes can still teach the youngsters a thing or two, though, with 54 points.

According to the ITF, Liverpool are in line for another Premiership title — even though Messrs Ferguson and McDonald, of Queens Park Rangers, gives his selection opposite. Like him, you may spend £4.5 million on Gary Pallister — but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose you points. With Jones Six setting the pace, it is time to delve into the transfer market?

you to change up to two players each week. Which player you offload and who you replace him with is up to you, although you must replace the outgoing player with one from the same category (ie, a full back with a full back).

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced. Any overseas or Endsleigh Insurance League players who move into the Premiership during the season will become available for transfer.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 333 331 line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39p per minute, plus a 49p per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call 004 499 020 0631 and you will be charged at 58p per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club. If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prize.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides, and Alan McDonald, of Queens Park Rangers, gives his selection opposite. Like him, you may spend £4.5 million on Gary Pallister — but will he do better than cheaper alternatives?

All matches in the Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs count and your players and manager win and lose you points. With Jones Six setting the pace, it is time to delve into the transfer market?

□ All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 498 122.



James, of Liverpool, displays the dynamic style that has racked up the points and made him the most valuable goalkeeper in ITF

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

POINTS SCORED		
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Score goal
Score goal	3pts	All players
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Appearance
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager
Score goal	3pts	Team wins
Midfield player	3pts	Team draws
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt	Team loses
Score goal	2pts	

POINTS DEDUCTED		
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty
Concedes goal	1pt	Score own goal
All players	3pts	Manager
Sent off	3pts	Team loses

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
1 must have played for 45 minutes in the match

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

* Calls cost (per minute) 39p, plus 49p other times. Rep. 58p
If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your two-digit selector's PIN, which must be typed in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' three-digit codes.

The line is open from 6pm on Tuesday until 11pm on Saturday from 6pm on Saturday to 11pm on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the line will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6pm.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category — for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would result in an overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player In:

Club:

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

Code	Player	IN	Club	Value
22006	B Small	IN	Bolton	£2.50m
Code	Player	OUT	Club	Value
21805	B Small	OUT	A Villa	£0.50m

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pts	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Jones Boys Six	(M Jones)	608
2	Gohills Gods 65	(B Gohill)	591
3	Jones Boys Four	(L Jones)	577
4	Laytons Lions	(R Layton)	573
5	Short And Stubbs	(K Booth)	572
6	Teddy Five	(B Bann)	565
7	Fair Fair Flagship	(C Woodward)	564
8	Langton Longshots	(J Ward)	564
9	Kaspars Five	(E Kieby)	564
10	Nights Right Foot	(D Patel)	563
11	Apollis 2	(S Lazarides)	563
12	Tommy Cockles XI	(P Johnson)	558
13	Percy's Progress	(M Percich)	555
14	Phyco And Smith	(K Booth)	556
15	Estuary	(P Giles)	553
16	Banwell United	(R Banham)	553
17	Sharon's Buds	(O Corroy)	552
18	Jessicas Darlings 4	(A Nadeson)	551
19	County Five A	(J Hunt)	551
20	Nobby One	(A Brown)	549
21	Strew Voles	(H Brasher)	549
22	KP Fantasy Team 4	(K Patel)	548
23	Tony's All Stars	(A Boyland)	547
24	Turners Earners 2	(P Turner)	544
25	Adams Men Or God 4	(R Pike)	544
26	Stevens Lions 6	(M Corless)	542
27	Ormy Stars	(J Nicholl)	542
28	Paron United	(D Gornall)	541
29	Cameron Athan	(A Hewitt)	540
30	Rescue City 2	(J Reader)	539
31	Turners Earners	(J Sanderson)	538
32	Hastoe Rovers	(P Bannion)	538
33	Jordans XI	(P Barnard)	538
34	Sams All Stars	(J Allen)	538
35	Nobby Nat	(A Brown)	537
36	Jaggy Thistle	(J Bruce)	537
37	Dewy's Dribblers	(A Philcox)	536
38	Reggie's Reds	(J Bridge)	534
39	Alkie	(A Ford)	533
40	The Good Bad & Ugly	(K Booth)	533
41	Niverna FC	(J Donovan)	533
42	DDH 2	(M Corless)	532
43	Eggs N'Ham	(D Warner)	532
44	Purple Sunflowers	(N Rickard)	532
45	The Living Dead	(T Stackin)	531
46	Barrie Thistles	(C Nicol)	531
47	Albion's Terrors	(I Hedges)	530
48	The Woe One Too	(A Nelson)	530
49	Burney's Babes	(T Burns)	530
50	Top Heavy?	(P Young)	530
51	Points Make Prizes	(D Chopping)	530
52	March Pass	(M McGovern)	529
53	Chip N' Dale XI	(E Arrowsmith)	529
54	Metro Ltd	(J Sanderson)	529
55	Who Needs Mark	(N Persich)	529
56	The Likely Lads	(G Pedder)	529
57	Justine's	(A Kent)	529
58	Westbible Ltd 3	(D Smith)	528
59	The Locusts	(D Lock)	528
60	Vasziro	(D Batschelor)	528
61	DM OO 4	(D McGregor)	528
62	DM OO 3	(D McGregor)	528
63	Norman	(T Sigsworth)	527
64	Jeamond 1860	(S Murray)	527
65	Stevens Lions 5	(S Brewer)	525
66	Good Times United	(T Stablesford)	525
67	Pursell Rangers	(P Macdonald Pursell)	525

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your two-digit selector's PIN. The line is open from noon today.

Pts	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
67	Formby Flyers	(A Norton)	525
68	Sensible City	(G Cole)	525
69	Partick Thistle	(C Nicol)	525
70	Rothes Supers	(P Sutton)	525
71	Strangers	(G Banks)	524
72	Plenty Rovers	(J Platt)	524
73	Woolrothar	(K Booth)	524
74	Stevens Lions 1	(S Brewer)	523
75	Nader	(A Nevazsky)	523
76	Doug's Desperados	(D Richardson)	522
77	Communing Eleven	(B Evans)	522
78	Don Shuter C	(D Shuter)	522
79	Bubwith Ltd	(M Larkham)	521
80	DM 001	(D McGregor)	521
81	Cleaves Ducks	(T Collier)	521
82	No Fear Ltd	(G Saunders)	521
83	Nate Lions	(N Brewer)	521
84	The Mind Boogies	(Mr P McDowell)	521
85	Russell 3	(D Shuter)	521
86	Wildbeest	(Mr J Albertson)	521
87	Stevens Lions 8	(S Brewer)	521
88	Eleven For Nork	(Mr P S Gubala)	521
89	Carling XI	(P Parke)	521
90	Monster Monster	(M Parke)	521
91	Wallace & Gromit FC	(Mr S Hyams)	521
92	Nippers	(K Hughes)	521
93	Stevens Lions 7	(S Brewer)	521
94	A Total Flop	(D Thandi)	521
95	Jacobbook FC	(A Jacobbook)	521
96	Kespura Two	(E Kieby)	521
97	Warren Wizards	(J Buckle)	521
98	Bashful Bankers	(C Alavoine)	521
99	Deves Llabon Lions	(D Strachan)	521
100	Wannabe Stars	(A Harris)	521
101	Don Elm Sistas	(D Stojkovic)	521
102	Parizian Beograd I	(J Doyle)	521
103	Das Boot	(D Stojkovic)	521
104	Pig In A Poke	(J Waters)	521
105	Terr's Tormontors	(S Torr)	521
106	Quinton Forest	(J Baker)	521
107	Merson The Person	(S Blane)	521

Pts	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
112	Steve's Scores	(S Thinder)	512
113	Bull Around Les	(J Pregon)	512
114	S Express FC	(S O'Toole)	512
115	Bert Trautmann XI	(M Podes)	512
116	Kaspars Three	(E Kieby)	512
117	110 Percent	(M Doherty)	512
118	Racing Club Humeil	(S Williams)	512
119	Twilight United	(P Diworah)	511
120	The Mighty Dunsin	(D Hall)	511
121	Skunk City	(M Franks)	511
122	Journeymen	(A Jordan)	511
123	Boing Boing Baggy	(T Home)	511
124	Stevens Lions 2	(S Gohill)	511
125	St Remy Strikers	(P Simpson)	511
126	Rainbow Connection	(S Gohill)	511
127	Sky Blue Royles	(S Gohill)	511
128	Freddie Caldwell FC	(A Heston)	511
129	Le Socka	(J Aldous)	511
130	Ben Accord	(J Kelson)	511
131	Old Turt	(J Ratcliffe)	511
132	Harrington Inter	(D Lovell)	511
133	Tour De Force	(C Culluz)	511
134	The Dream Team	(C Farrell)	511
135	DM 002	(H Mathew)	511
136	Donny's Dream	(J Roff)	511
137	JRFC 2	(S House)	511
138	Star's Dirty Dozen	(V Beecham)	511
139	The Untouchables	(T Gibbins)	511
140	Gibbins Terry Mark	(J Hunt)	511
141	County Five C	(A Heston)	511
142	Wimpey Ltd	(D Chamberlain)	511
143	Tibhurst Tornadoes	(D Butler)	511
144	Bill's Best Pirates	(I Clayton)	511
145	Dour Rangers	(I Parker)	511
146	Long Drive	(J Stokes)	511
147	Headstar	(J Hunt)	511
148	County Five L	(H Thompson)	511
149	Hells Angels	(C Nicol)	511
150	Siddon United	(J Sanderson)	511
151	Partick Thistle	(J Roff)	511
152	Rescue City	(I Godwin)	511
153	New Babes Eleven	(E Woods)	511
154	Eddie's Eagles	(S Smith)	511
155	Abergavenny Rovers	(N Webb)	511
156	No Sam Today	(N Whalley)	511
157	The Rockers	(R Hall)	511
158	Palm Bay XI	(S Kavanagh)	511
159	Upson	(A Pocke)	511
160	Andy's Elms	(P Farmer)	511
161	The Conjurors	(P Gargan)	511
162	Leonidas	(R Smith)	511
163	The Fifty Granders	(A Craggan)	511
164	The Magicians	(M Allison)	511
165	Platypus United	(K Booth)	511
166	Its A Mugs Game	(B Ghuman)	511
167	Bel's Team	(R Patterson)	511
168	KBT Ltd	(G Bardejohn)	511
169	Nanou	(G Shepherd)	511
170	The Young Guns	(N Thompson)	511
171	Stannum Strikers	(D Aldous)	511
172	The Black Knights	(R Green)	511
173	Rijnsdorp's Rebels	(A Targett)	511
174	The Gentleman	(D Grassick)	511
175	Arabab	(G Howitt)	511
176	Strawberry Dynamo	(D Hall)	511

Pts	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
512	Goal Diggers	(C Stacey)	502
513	Death Or Glory	(A Davies)	502
514	Gatto Nero FC	(E Scatena)	502
515	QPR Auctioneers A	(S Kempster)	502
516	Merla Metas 20	(M Hibb)	502
517	Evans Men	(W Doyle)	502
518	The 2 Offies	(M Forde)	502
519	Victoria Vardals	(D Gunter)	502
520	Seven Kings FC 1	(D Rhodes)	502
521	Red Star Richmond	(S Glanville)	502
522	JRFC 13	(J Roff)	502
523	The Doug Hutchins	(M Stacey)	502
524	Noble Rangers	(A Whyte)	502
525	Mark XI	(M Lawrence)	502
526	Street FC	(S Bartlett)	502
527	Achilles Heel	(M Koutas)	502
528	Seven Kings FC 2	(S Siddiqui)	502
529	Sullies Golden Players	(S Sullivan)	502
530	Leeds Best Eleven	(L Gillett)	502
531	Overhill Rovers	(M James)	502
532	HP EC Boys	(E Unley)	502
533	The Sinking Ship	(T Blythe)	502
534	Rueful Rabbits	(G Sullivan)	502
535	Kims Kicks	(S Smith)	502
536	Northbank Cardigan	(T Gammage)	502
537	Joe Royles Wink 3	(J Portwood)	502
538	Triple Peppers	(M Phillips)	502
539	Trefleick Town	(P Sansom)	502
540	Northern Nashers	(R Knowles)	502
541	Rangers Raiders	(P Knowles)	502
542	West Ham Alliance	(P McCauley)	502
543	Demon Stars FC	(J Roff)	502
544	JRFC 17	(A Wells)	502
545	Wells S Wonder	(G Shand)	502
546	Aberpury	(R Conway)	502
547	Lewsey Farm	(A Hughes)	502
548	Whitagoal Ltd	(T Wood)	502
549	Tellows	(E Lam)	

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pls
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	0	-8
10102	B Minnis	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	+10	+40
10301	A Cotton	Manchester United	2.50	0	0
10302	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	+5	+19
10303	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10304	A Fitts	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	+4	+48
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	-5	-8
10502	M Besney	Leeds United	0.75	0	-9
10601	P Smitcek	Newcastle United	3.00	+2	+2
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10603	S Hslop	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+4
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-4	+6
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-1	-48
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	-8	-27
10903	P Head	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	0	0
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	-1	-27
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+8
11102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	-2	-9
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	+4	+30
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-41
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+2	-8
11401	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.50	-3	-11
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	-5	-5
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	-7	-8
11502	J Kearton	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	0	-32
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11603	J Folan	Coventry City	1.50	0	-35
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11703	E Imbel	Manchester City	2.00	-7	-35
11801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	+5	+35
11802	M Oakes	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	+5	+17
12001	K Brannagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-86
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-6	-6



McDonald's decision to select several friends in his team appears to be serving him well

Heading for Europe

I DID have my team selection pinned up on the notice-board in the kitchen so I knew who was in and who was likely to be doing well. But, since we had the kitchen fitters in, I can't even find the board, much less the team-sheet. Never mind, I've just heard the good news that Mac's Moodies are in sixth place in the PFA league. We're going for Europe now; these are heady days.

When I picked the team, I opted for a few friends, then a few steady players and a couple who no one else would go for. I was limited by the price but they were all players who I thought had a good chance of doing well. Clive Wilson used to play at QPR, so I know him. Gary Pallister is a steady player and Niall Quinn and Dean Holdsworth are always going to score goals.

I also tried to get a few penalty-takers in the team. Wilson used to take them before joining Tottenham Hotspur and Jim Magilton has earned a few points playing for Southampton this season. I wish I had bought Iain Dowie, now he is at West Ham United. When I was picking the team, he was still at Crystal Palace, so was not in the reckoning.

David Baty is causing a few problems. Now that he has gone to St James' Park, it means I have three Newcastle United players in the side. I don't want to change a winning team, but I will have to get rid

Alan McDonald, the QPR defender, is having a good season with his ITF team

of one of them. It will probably be Lee Clarke.

I couldn't believe it when I saw Baty was on offer for only £15 million. I've always liked him as a player and was expecting him to be worth about £4 million. He is another good, steady player and should get me a fair few points.

Quinn is another bargain at £4 million. He is still only a young man but he seems to have been around for a long time. I have played against him for years in the

Premiership and in the internationals against Ireland. I felt sorry for him when he had that horrific injury and missed the World Cup finals, but he has recovered from that. Manchester City seem to have recovered, too, which is bad news for us at QPR.

It is tight at the bottom of the table, there are only a few points separating the teams. A couple of results could change everything. But we don't seem to be getting the luck at the moment. When we played Manchester United, we were on top in the second half but the referee played four minutes of extra time and they scored. It sums up our season.

But at least Mac's Moodies are in the right half of the table. My top points-winner so far is Gary McAllister, another friend of mine. He is a top-quality player and scores from penalties and free kicks. That is one of the good things about him - he can get me points with a clean sheet and by scoring. Leeds were my tip as dark horses for the championship this season. They started off so well with Yeaboh scoring unbelievable goals, but then they went through a bad spell.

My only problem now is where to find another midfield player for £1.5 million. Maybe I will look at some of the youngsters from Manchester United. I am just glad that I am not a real manager.

McDonald's TEAM

Goalkeeper:	P Smitcek	(Newcastle)	£3m
Full backs:	R Jones	(Liverpool)	£3m
	C Wilson	(Tottenham H)	£2.5m
Centre backs:	G Pallister	(Leeds)	£4.5m
	D Baty	(Newcastle)	£1.5m
Midfielders:	G McAllister	(Leeds)	£4m
	L Clarke	(Newcastle)	£1.5m
	J Magilton	(Southampton)	£3m
Strikers:	N Quinn	(Man City)	£4m
	D Holdsworth	(Bolton)	£2m
Manager:	R Williams	(QPR)	£1m

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pls
30801	D Maddix	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-13
30802	S Yelwa	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-15
30803	A McDonald	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	0
30804	K Ready	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	+1	-10
30901	A Reeves	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-4
30902	A Thorn	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-5
30903	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.75	0	-8
30904	C Perry	Wimbledon	1.00	-3	-20
30905	A Pearce	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-3
31001	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	+5
31002	A Neilson	Southampton	1.50	0	+9
31003	R Hall	Southampton	1.50	0	+7
31101	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0	-13
31102	J Kjelberg	Chelsea	1.50	0	0
31103	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	+5
31104	D Lee	Chelsea	0.75	-0	-21
31105	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	+2	+5
31201	T Adams	Arsenal	4.50	0	+27
31202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+23
31203	M Keown	Arsenal	1.50	+3	+30
31204	A Linighan	Arsenal	1.50	0	-11
31301	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	+2	-6
31302	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-15
31401	S Potts	West Ham United	2.50	+4	+15
31402	M Rieper	West Ham United	2.50	-5	-13
31403	A Martin	West Ham United	1.00	0	+20
31404	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
31405	S Bilic	West Ham United	1.50	-3	+5
31501	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0	+31
31502	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-3	+19
31503	C Short	Everton	2.50	0	+11
31601	D Rennie	Coventry City	0.75	0	-7
31602	D Busst	Coventry City	0.75	0	+1
31603	B Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-13
31604	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	-15
31605	L Daltch	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1
31701	K Curie	Manchester City	1.50	-4	+7
31702	A Kermaghan	Manchester City	1.00	0	-3
31703	K Symons	Manchester City	1.50	-3	+7
31801	U Ehiogu	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+38
31802	P McGrath	Aston Villa	1.50	+4	+28
31803	C Tiler	Aston Villa	0.75	0	+1
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	0.75	+4	+13
31902	S Nickers	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+21
31903	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4
31904	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	0.75	+4	+17
32001	A Stubbs	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+1	+15
32002	C Fairclough	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	-2	-18
32003	S Coleman	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-2	-4
32004	G Taggart	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	0	0
32005	G Strong	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pls
40103	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	0	+5
40104	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+33
40105	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+32
40106	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+3
40107	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+10
40108	L Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+38
40109	W McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+12
40110	G Fenton	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	+3
40201	R Gibbs	Manchester United	5.50	+4	+60
40202	R Keane	Manchester United	2.50	+3	+39
40203	L Sharpe	Manchester United	3.00	+4	+41
40204	N Butt	Manchester United	2.00	+3	+40
40205	D Beckham	Manchester United	0.75	0	+36
40206	S Davies	Manchester United	0.75	0	+1
40207	C Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+2	+38
40208	I Woon	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+2	+51
40209	S Stone	Nottingham Forest	4.00	+3	+47
40301	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+21
40302	S Gemmill	Nottingham Forest	2.00	+1	+33
40303	K Black	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	+1
40304	S Howe	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pls
41410	S Lazarides	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
41411	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+2	+36
41412	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.00	+1	+26
41413	I Dumitrescu	West Ham United	4.00	+2	+7
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	+1	+27
41502	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	+1	+33
41503	A Limper	Everton	2.50	+1	+27
41504	B Horne	Everton	1.50	+1	+22
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0	+5
41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	0	+35
41507	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+10
41508	A Kanchelskis	Everton	6.00	+3	+56
41601	P Cook	Coventry City	2.00	0	+2
41602	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	0	+25
41603	C Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+3
41604	P Taylor	Coventry City	1.50	0	+33
41605	M Isalas	Coventry City	3.00	0	+9
41606	C Batista	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
41607	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	0	+43
41701	G Filicetti	Manchester City	2.50	0	+25
41702	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0	+3
41703	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	-2	-37
41704	I Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+19
41705	N Summerbee	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+39
41706	G Kinkadee	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+49
41707	N Clough	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+20
41708	C Brown	Manchester City	1.00	+1	+1
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	+2	+37
41802	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+33
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+46
41804	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0	+4
41805	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	+2	+56
41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+28
41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+1
41903	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+2
41904	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.75	+2	+23
41905	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	+1	+32
41906	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+2
41907	Juninho	Middlesbrough	5.00	0	+21
42002	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+11
42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+1	+15
42004	W Burnett	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0
42005	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	+6	+29
42006	S Curcio	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+4	+26

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Em	Wk	Pls
50101	A Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	10.00	0	+86
50102	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	7.00	0	+7
50103	M Newell	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+22
50104	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+14
50105	N Goodmanson	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+1
50201	E Cantona	Manchester United	7.50	+6	+58
50202	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00	+2	+49
50203	B McClair	Manchester United	3.00	0	+17
50204	P Scholes	Manchester United	2.50	0	+34
50205	R Roy	Manchester United	8.00	+1	+58
50302	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	+35
50303	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	+21
50304	A Silenzi	Nottingham Forest	3.50	0	+7
50305	P McGregor	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
50401	R Fowler	Liverpool	6.00	+4	+91
50402	S Collymore	Liverpool	7.50	+1	+56
50403	I Rush	Liverpool	3.00	0	+19
50501	A Yeboah	Leeds United	7.50	+1	+53
50502	B Denyer	Leeds United	2.50	+1	+33
50503	P Masling	Leeds United	1.50	0	+3
50504	T Brodie	Leeds United	5.00	0	+19
50601	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.00	+4	+74
50602	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	+1	+37
50603	P Kitten	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7
50604	M Allen	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50605	D Huckerby	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50606	F Angliss	Newcastle United	6.50	+1	+8
50701	E Sheringham	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+2	+73
50702	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	+4	+59
50703	R Rosenthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+31
50801	K Gallen	Queens Park Rangers	4.50	+1	+27
50802	B Allen	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	+5
50803	D Ditchio	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	+28
50804	M Haseley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	+10

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